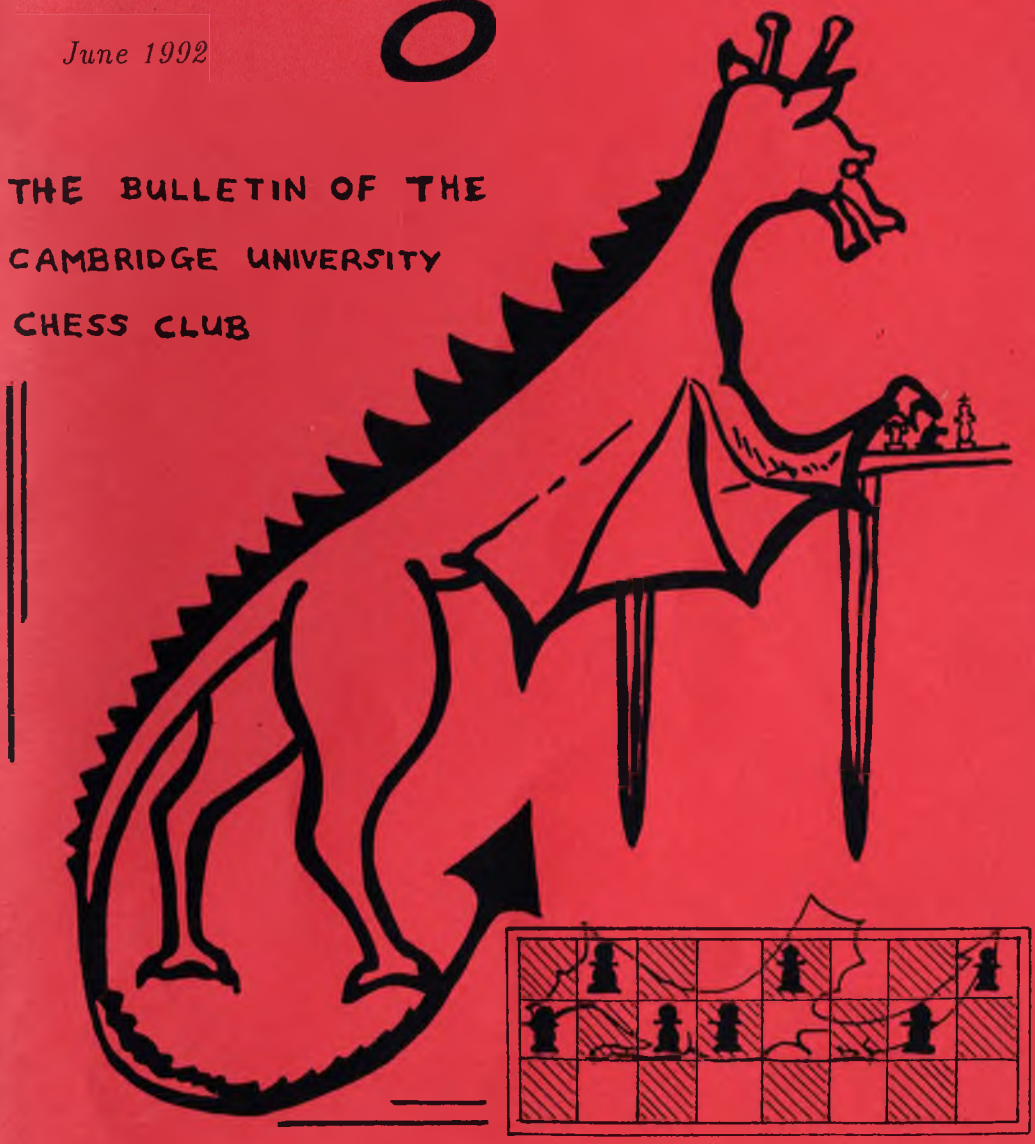
dragon

June 1992

THE BULLETIN OF THE
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
CHESS CLUB



Volume 26 Issue 78 March 1992

Dragon

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Editorial

by The Editorial VAT-Men

I went punting for the first time the other day. Getting into the punt was a little unnerving as it shifted alarmingly when I first put my not inconsiderable weight on it but I made my way and perched myself firmly in the middle of the boat.

'Don't throw yourself around, just act as ballast for the time being,' said my mate with the punt pole.

So I sat back and relaxed as we floated gently up the Cam. After a bit, we reached Silver Street bridge. It hadn't taken us very long as our punter was quite experienced and able to plough a straight line through the carnage of the tourist punt trade. Having turned round and pulled in to the shore, the man with the pole said, 'So are you going to have a go now David?' It wasn't a question.

Having been told that bare feet gave more grip I removed my socks and shoes, put my wallet and keys in the toe of one of my trainers (because I'm a pessimist when it comes to anything that tests my competence) and somewhat gingerly stood up. The punt threw itself to one side. (That's my story and I'm sticking to it.)

'Keep low,' I was warned as I manoeuvered myself, in my crouched stance, to the back of the punt. I don't think that you can call it a stern. My coach took his seat and smiled knowingly.

'Right; you've got this large lump of wood called a pole. It powers this thing if you use it properly. If you push too hard you'll lose it and we'll drift aimlessly. Be prepared to twist it as you pull it out if it sticks.'

I edged my way towards the very back, using my toes to move me because if I tried a full step I'd end up in the Cam. The bow lifted out of the water and the stern sank correspondingly lower.

'Don't worry. The others will balance the punt. The important thing is not to upset the left right balance of the thing. That's your job! Use the pole to steer one way or the other. Try not to hit anything. Oh, and watch your head on that bridge.'

You're quite exposed at the back of a punt and you have to be prepared to duck when trouble comes along, either in the form of an artificial structure or the natural obstacle of overhanging trees waiting to ambush the unsuspecting punter.

It's quite difficult at first as you try to find your way and spend time weaving back and forth across the river. Most of time seems to be spent overcompensating for the last error you made rather than actually progressing in a straight line.

Helpful words of advice from my coach soon improved my technique and he even had the self discipline not to try to use the paddle when it looked as if I'd made a fatal mistake. He just let me recover my balance and we continued on as before.

Every so often he'd hint: 'Take the straight course','Aim for over there','Keep control'. It became easier and I even started to relax. Flexibility and balance are the key and soon we were moving steadily down The Backs.

And then it was over. We were back at the moorings and the pole and paddle were returned to the boatkeeper.

In retrospect it was an interesting experience. Encouraging comments floating back from the others in the punt helps; more so because they know it'd the first time you've done anything like this and understand that you will appreciate helpful suggestions to improve your technique more than physical manhandling into the correct position.

I'm going punting again soon. I think that it gets easier and grows on you with practice. I'm looking forward to it.

The Relevant Bit

Well we've got a fair balance of old and new blood in this issue. The Editorial VAT-Men *(Now that the Mafia are blowing up the judiciary our legally minded editor wants to disassociate himself from them. -Ed.)* have searched the land for new contributors finding Thomas Pedersen, Nick Jakubovics, Joe Monk, Darran Shaw and Ilan Rubin yet the old favourites are still there. Steve Rix, now he has time on his hands, has written up his guide to the Scotch as well as looking at Graham's new book on the Alekhine while Steve Foister reports on his travels to the old East. This time's guest spot is filled by ex-editor Colin Crouch, whose seven queen endgame is a scorcher, and Addicts' Corner gives you the chance to play that dashing variant...Four-Handed chess. Enjoy!

Presidential Proclamation

by The Pres.

Well it's finally happened; the presidential title has been conferred on a Girtonian, and I intend to retreat back to Girton with it as soon as possible before anyone can pass a vote of no confidence in me.

However, I am aware that few people have any idea where Girton is (and those that do won't venture that far out of town), so I have given some thought to making myself available for comments, complaints, death-threats etc ... I have obtained a Phoenix ID (PSF10) and intend to put in an appearance at the county matches and club nights — just as soon as we know what night they're going to be held on. Might I remind people though that this season's committee is comprised of an impressive collection of committed and talented members so if you can't get enough of me I'm sure you won't be disappointed if you approach one of them.

My first presidential duty was to attend an SCCU meeting (the first Cambridgeshire representative in over a decade). Very little of genuine interest happened (probably why no-one bothers going), but I did get the county team's results for the season. We won three and lost four to finish either 5th or 6th out of 8, behind everyone except Herts., possibly Oxfordshire, and Middlesex, whose captain resigned, leading to the team defaulting its last two matches 20–0. Our downfall, as ever, is an inability to avoid losing away matches because we don't get our full side out. As county matches are a prospective Varsity team member's toughest opposition, it will be essential for hopefuls to show some commitment next year.

Still, that's next season. Despite the lack of chess during the Easter term, there will be a club punt trip, and also a good thrashing of the Bridge club at anything they care to challlenge us to (except bridge or croquet!).

Hope you take part in the East Anglian Champs., and I'll see you at the Societies' Fair Oct 6–7 (don't forget to come along and lend your support).

Have a fun-filled, sun-scorched and relaxing summer holiday,

Philip Fallon

Just in case anybody wants to know, the CUCC committee for the 1992-3 season looks like this:

Office	**Name**	**College**	**Phoenix ID**
President	Phil Fallon	Girton	PSF10
Vice-President	Phil Best	Downing	PNB15
Club Secretary	Andrew Brogden	Trinity	AMB28
Publicity Officers	David Boyle	Churchill	DSB13
	Andrew Ponting	Churchill	ADP14
Match Secretary	Dave MacKenzie	Sidney Sussex	—
Senior Treasurer	Dr.N.C.Pyper	Fitzwilliam	NCP1
Junior Treasurer	Ilan Rubin	Trinity	IMR11
Social Secretary	Steve Cook	Trinity	SJC18
Tournament Secretary	Ian Gooding	Downing	IRG10
Librarian	Prawiro Widjaja	Pembroke	PW124

Cambridge University Chess League 1991–2

Division 1

		Dar	StC	Tr1	Chu	Dow	StJ	Pet	Tr2	Gir	Fit	Total	+	=	−
1	Darwin I		3	3	2	2½	3½	2½	2½	4	5	28	5	3	1
2	St Catharine's I	2	—	1½	2½	2	3	3½	3	4½	2½	26½	5	2	2
3	Trinity I	2	1½		3½	2½	1	4	3	4	4	25½	5	1	3
4	Churchill I	3	2½	1½		1½	2½	3	2½	5	3½	25	4	3	2
5	Downing I	2½	3	2½	3½		3½	2	1½	2	4½	25	4	2	3
6	St John's I	1½	2	4	2½	1½		2½	3½	3½	2½	23½	3	3	3
7	Peterhouse I	2½	1½	1	2	3	2½		2½	3½	3½	22	3	3	3
8	Trinity II	2½	2	2	2½	3½	1½	2½		2	2½	21	1	4	4
9	*Girton I*	1	½	1	0	3	1½	1½	3		3	14½	3	0	6
10	*Fitzwilliam I*	0	2½	1	1½	½	2½	1½	2½	2		14	0	3	6

Division 2

		Kin	Sid	Cla	Cai	Jes	Tr3	Rob	Tr4	Total	+	=	−
1	**King's I**	—	4	3½	4	4½	3	2½	4	25½	6	1	0
2	**Sidney**	1	—	3½	1	4	2½	4	4	20	4	1	2
3	Clare	1½	1½	—	3½	3½	3	2½	2½	18	3	2	2
4	Caius	1	4	1½	—	1½	2½	2½	4	17	2	2	3
5	Jesus I	½	1	1½	3½	—	2½	3½	3	15½	3	1	3
6	Trinity III	2	2½	2	2½	2½	—	2½	1½	15½	0	4	3
7	Robinson I	2½	1	2½	2½	1½	2½	—	2½	15	0	5	2
8	Trinity IV	1	1	2½	1	1	3½	2½	—	12½	1	2	4
9	*Emmanuel*												
10	*Queens' I*												

Division 3

		Pem	Sel	Tr5	Tr6	Chr	TrH	Total	+	=	−
1	**Pembroke I**	—	3½	3½	3	4	3	17	5	0	0
2	**Selwyn I**	1½	—	3	3	2	4	13½	4	0	1
3	Trinity V	1½	2	—	2	3½	1	10	1	0	4
4	Trinity VI	2	2	3	—	1	—	8	1	0	3
5	Christ's I	1	1	1½	4	—	—	7½	1	0	3
6	Trinity Hall	2	1	4	—	—	—	7	1	0	2
7	*Corpus*										
8	*St John's II*										

Division 4

		Chu	Kin	Pet	Chr	Tr7	Fit	Total	+	=	−
1	**Churchill II**	—	3½	4	3	3½	5	19	5	0	0
2	**King's II**	1½	—	5	3	3	3	15½	4	0	1
3	Peterhouse II	1	0	—	3	3½	5	12½	3	0	2
4	Christ's II	2	2	2	—	2½	2	10½	0	1	4
5	Trinity VII	1½	2	1½	2½	—	—	7½	0	1	3
6	Fitzwilliam II	0	2	0	3	—	—	5	1	0	3
7	*Queens' II*										
8	*St Catharine's II*										

Division 5

		Pem	Pet	StJ	Rob	Jes	Sel	Dow	Tr8	Total	+	=	-
1	**Pembroke II**	—	–	4	3½	4	4	3	4	22½	6	0	1
2	**Peterhouse III**	+	—	2	3	2½	3	4	2½	22	4	2	1
3	St John's III	1	3	—	2½	2½	3	4	4	20	4	2	1
4	Robinson II	1½	2	2½	—	2	3	+	4	20	3	1	2
5	Jesus II	1	2½	2½	3	—	4	3	3	19	4	2	1
6	Selwyn II	1	2	1	2	1	—	4	4	15	2	0	5
7	*Downing II*	2	1	1	–	2	1	—	3½	10½	1	0	6
8	*Trinity VIII*	1	2½	1	1	2	1	1½	—	10	0	1	6

Division 6

		Dar	Gir	StC	Chu	Tr9	Fit	Total	+	=	-
1	**Darwin II**	—	3	3	3	3½	4	16½	5	0	0
2	**Girton II**	2	—	2½	3½	4	3	15	3	1	1
3	St Catharine's III	2	2½	—	2½	3	5	15	2	2	1
4	Churchill III	2	1½	2½	—	3	4½	13½	2	1	2
5	Trinity IX	1½	1	2	2	—	3½	10	1	0	4
6	Fitzwilliam III	1	2	0	½	1½	—	5	0	0	5
7	*Selwyn III*										
8	*Robinson III*										

Teams in bold promoted, ***teams in italics relegated.***

This year's college league was the closest and most competitive in recent memory, with the gap between the top and bottom teams much reduced compared to previous years.

St John's and Peterhouse were early challengers, but faded after Christmas. With two cycles to go, Trinity I were hot favourites, standing 1 point behind St Catharine's and level with Darwin, with a match against bottom-placed Fitzwilliam in hand. Then Trinity got ambushed 3½–1½ by Catz, John Wilson dropping his Queen to Steve Foister in a drawn Q+Ps ending. Meanwhile, Darwin crunched Fitz 5–0. Trinity's match versus Fitz yielded 4 points, putting them ½ point ahead of Darwin and 1 point ahead of Catz going into the last cycle. St Catz's chance passed when they could take only 3 points off Trinity II. On the same night Darwin slaughtered Girton 4–1 to leave Trinity needing to do the same to St John's. Everything went horribly wrong for Trinity as boards 1, 3 and 5 fell to the Johnians. Thus ended Trinity's fifteen-year reign as league champions.

Examination of CUCC's archives reveals that Darwin's first championship puts them level with Downing (1971) and Pembroke (1967). Churchill were the last non–Trinity winners (1976 and 1977), whilst Hartston-inspired Jesus won three times (1966 and 1969-70). Trinity have, of course, dominated the league's 28 years (it started in 1964-5) with twenty championships.

It's a bit embarrassing to give statistics in such a low-brow rag as Dragon, but the reader may find the following of some interest. Out of 209 games played in the first division (there were 16 defaults), 92 were won by White, 65 were won by Black and 52 were drawn.

In the second division, King's won convincingly for the second successive year. Perhaps this time they will accept their promotion. Sidney beat off Clare for the second promotion spot.

Trinity College also surrendered the Cuppers crown. Winners for the last two years, Trinity II couldn't raise a team because Trinity I had poached Steve Rix, who actually scored some points this year, helping them into the final. Catz produced the same form in Cuppers as in the league, and amazingly beat Sidney, Robinson and Peterhouse to join them. However, Trinity's chronic disorganisation proceeded to cost them the title, as John "I'm completely hopeless" Wilson omitted to find any Trinity players for the match and so St Catharine's became Cuppers champions by default, ending Mr. Rix's dream of playing on the losing side in a Cuppers final for the fourth consecutive year.

County Life

by Steve Foister

For those of you that don't know, I am the Cambridgeshire County Chess Association president. I don't do an awful lot, but anyone who wants to get more involved with chess outside the university can contact me either through my pigeon hole at St. Catz or by telephone: internal 4000 at the lab, or 313078 at home.

There are three chess clubs in Cambridge: the City club meets at the University Centre on Mondays, the NCI club meets at the New Chesterton Institute on Tuesdays, and a less formal club meets at the Six Bells (off Mill Road) also on Tuesdays. These clubs meet throughout the year: useful if you want chess during the long vac.

The University club has always run the SCCU county team pretty much on its own, with the town entering a team in the EACU. However, we are currently expanding the number of EACU teams, and any University players unable to secure a place in the SCCU team would be welcome: there are also openings for keen organisers.

Junior chess in the city is less developed. There is a tournament, and several teams, but we lack a full time junior club. (Any volunteer organisers would be most welcome!)

There is also the City League in which the University usually enters a few teams, where chess can be played in friendly, often licenced premises without travelling as far as Girton. If you want to play, contact Phil Fallon at Girton College.

Finally, the County AGM will be held at 8.00pm, Monday 12th October at the University Centre, so put it in your diaries.

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A Rave for the Brave

by Andrew Ponting

As part of the celebrations to mark the relaunch of Dragon under a new editorial team, we're giving away in every copy the chance for you to make your very own four-handed chess-board.

If you follow the instructions below you'll be the envy of your friends, able to enjoy this new craze in the comfort of your own home

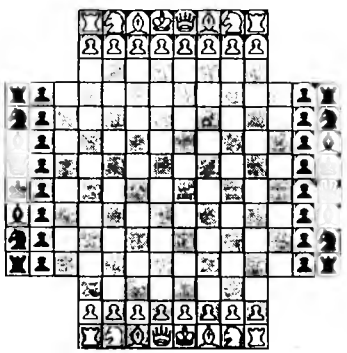
1. Either:

a) Draw out a 14x14 board then cut 3x3 squares off the corners,

b) Savagely dismember any (2 or 3) old boards you have lying around, then stick the pieces together in any suitably random arrangement, or

c) Contact Steve Foister (SAMF1) for extremely competitive quotes on the latest state-of-the-art models.

2. Place a set of white pieces on side 1, black on side 2, yellow on side 3 and red on side 4, and assuming you're now looking at something like this, *(Diagram)* you're ready to play.



For the uninitiated amongst you, a brief idea of the rules† is as follows:

a) White and Yellow play against Black and Red

b) Play proceeds clockwise (White, Black, Yellow, Red)

c) A mated or stalemated player's pieces are frozen (cannot move, act, or be taken) until the mate is lifted or the game finishes

d) If a side's two players are both mated, they've lost; if one is mated and the other stalemated, the game is drawn.

Now, just sit back, enjoy the brief taste of the sport (sic) given here, and look forwards to those long happy hours spent fathoming the intricacies of rule 9(d), polishing your endgame technique, and preparing for next season's four-handed pint-a-point.

.... And here's one we made earlier .....

or, 'The Shafting of the Century'

by Panting Wonder

Towards the end of Phil Crocker's presidency, a letter was received from the London Insurance Chess Club, reading something like this — 'In 1892 a four-handed chess match took place between the London and Cambridge University Chess Clubs, resulting in a victory for Cambridge. As next year marks the centenary of this event, we would like to challenge you to a rematch. Cambridge had home advantage in the original match, so we feel you are duty-bound to come to London this time. We, of course, are quite happy to commit ourselves to visiting Cambridge in 2092.'

Let no man say that the new Pres., Mr. Totty, ever shirked a challenge! Showing masterly powers of delegation, he set our top materials scientist to producing a board, and found the Best man for the job of captain, and the often tricky process of team selection.

Making its first public appearance at the Univ. Champs in January, the board aroused a degree of excitement not seen in Pembroke Old Reader since Elvis played there in front of 20,000 screaming fans, and practice began in earnest.

A team was quickly settled on, though changes soon became necessary. Everyone enjoyed the game, yet strangely, they soon stopped coming. The reason? *'It made my head hurt, Brian.'* As the game's fiendish difficulty became apparent, team selection became a game of musical chairs, where the aim of the game was to be the one left standing.

Time progressed, and as the Fat Lady sang, the unfortunate names on the doors were Dave Boyle, Phil Best, Natasha Regan and myself. *(Our commiserations to Tash, who was only fooled into taking a chair at the last moment - Ed).* Play it again, Sam, we cried, but it was no use, SAMF1 was busy elsewhere, so there was no choice but to get on with it.

Realising our pitiful state of preparedness, the end of the Lent term was given over to three days of intensive training, though with mixed results; long hours of opening analysis frequently failed to prevent practice games being decided within three moves.

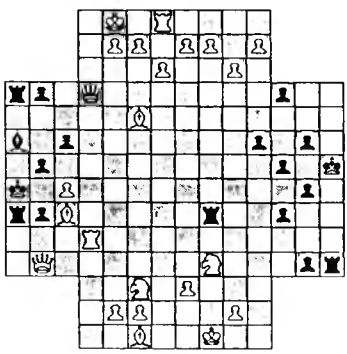
So the day of the match dawned, with the the prospect of a whitewash still dampening spirits, but, 'Surely,' we thought, 'they won't understand the game either ?' Anyway, the omens were good; it was a hundred years to the day since Cambridge won a strangely similar fixture. Arriving at London Insurance, a quietly efficient institution, just three hours after leaving Cambridge, the culture shock was considerable, and a degree of misunderstanding was inevitable; the bellboy I gave my suitcase to turned out to be the Insurance Club President, but how was I to know?

Our captain, Phil Best, with his usual attention to detail, had planned the team tactics carefully, and we were to play Black/Red on both boards in the morning, so that if London had found a forced win for White (!), we could return the compliment in the afternoon.

After a brief panic when it looked as though we'd been practising with the pieces the wrong way round, there was just time for the official photos, then we changed into our team kit, and we were off!

Both games developed into see-saw battles, though of very different kinds. Phil and I soon became embroiled in a positional struggle, whilst on the other board Tash and Dave went for the jugular. *'I see they're your aggressive pairing'* was the response of one London player. Not arf, pop-pickers, though Dave's sheer animal presence wasn't just disturbing his opponents:

Having reached the position below:



I could see Dave's nose twitching, as he scented the possibility of a violent finish.

23 PxBP Q–B4+ YES!!! (D.Boyle)

23 ... B–K6 RxN+ 24 K–K1

24 ... QxYKB now completes the win of lots of material. After Tash's effort, however ...

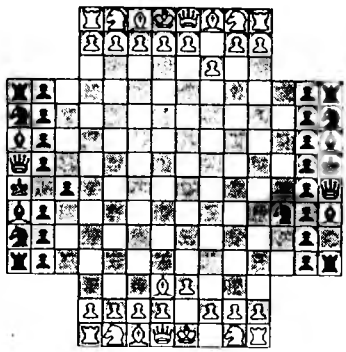
24 ... Q–WK2+?? B–BN2 RxQ 25 KxQ

... her partner was shortly heard remodelling office furniture in the adjoining room, and the whole building began to rock ominously. *('If he'd got his hands on me he'd have killed me!'- NKR. (Surely that should read 'If he'd got his hands on me, Pete would have killed him!' - Ed))*

All was not lost however, as Dave and Tash showed their fighting spirit by hanging on to win on time in a dodgy ending, shortly after Phil and I had won ours with Kornaesque aplomb.

So, 2–0 to Cambridge, with 2 Whites to come, and even if we lost them we were assured of a draw. Our pre-match nerves were gone now though, and in round two, with White, we essayed the hypermodern Cambridge system (as it will undoubtedly be known in years to come) with the following result:

1 P–K3 P–K3 P–QB3 N–QB3?? 2 B–Q3



After the 4-hour battles of the 1st round, the London players were a bit shell-shocked to find themselves almost lost after 10 minutes, and after missing their last chance (Black must play 2 –BxP+) they played on for a few more moves *('I was struck forcibly by the similarities between Black's play in the latter stages of our game, and that of a headless chicken' -PNB).* The end to Dave and Tash's game was particularly amusing ...

2 – Q–N4?? QxP++ – 3 Q–N4 Q–QB4 Q–QN9 P–K3 4 Q–QB8 Q–QB13 QxBP+ Q–B3 5 QxBP++ ... Q–N12+ Q–B4 6 QxB+ K–K2 Q–BK1+ P–QN4 7 QxN K–B3 QxB+ Q–KR4 8 QxR K–K4 P–QN3 1-0

A smooth positional bijou.

Unfortunately, the early finish meant a 3rd round was possible, and as the long day began to tell, Dave showed the true generosity of his nature by gifting his opponents his queen, ensuring London escaped the whitewash.

In the end though, the 5–1 scoreline reflected the fact that the more professional side won. London were outprepared in the openings, and failed to appreciate that in modern top-level four-handed, a suit and tie are no longer reasonable attire. The correct state of mind can only be created by properly designed kit, such as the shirts of the Cambridge team. The no-nonsense black front helped create the essential uncompromising attitude, whilst catching sight of the slogan 'The Shafting of the Century.' *(If that's not compromising, I don't know what is — Ed)* on the back of someone else's shirt urged us on to ever greater efforts.

Having proved themselves still the country's finest, Cambridge may now turn their attention overseas, in their search for top-flight opposition, essential if they are to continue pushing back the boundaries of the game.

Finally, a brief word for the losers. To lose so heavily after a century of preparation must have been a crushing blow, but they took defeat graciously, and for this, and the way in which they hosted the event, they take the fair-play award. The London team will be back, and you can rest asured, that when they are, Cambridge will once more treat their challenge with the respect it deserves.

† For more detailed rules, or news of fellow addicts, contact Phil Best (Downing, PNB15)

Varsity Match Report

by Andrew Ponting

Hopes were high this year that Cambridge might reverse the recent decline in their fortunes, which culminated in Oxford drawing level in the series last year. Oxford's intake this year did, at first sight, look exceedingly strong. Led by US Open winner Stuart Rachels, it gave rise to a Freshers' team whose board 4 was rated over 2200. In the Freshers' match and in the Oxon.–Cambs. county match, though, our new boys seemed to have proven themselves at least as good, with Joe Monk and Nick Jacubovics scoring well against possible Varsity match opposition, and Andrew Hon making Rachels work very hard for his point. The rest of the side contained plenty of experience, with John Wilson, Eddy Holland and Steve Foister all veterans of previous matches, whilst Natasha Regan became the first lady in living memory to play 'by right', following last year's rule change allowing the team's lady player to play on the board her strength merited. The only problems revolved around board 8: after strong performances in the last two Univ. Champs. Tasos Petkou gained selection, but was unfortunately forced to withdraw as he was out of the country at the time of the match. Fortunately, an experienced replacement was available in the shape of Arne Hessenbruch, University Champion in 1989, and Tasos' team-mate at Darwin.

Pre-match predictions then, were that John Wilson might struggle (no disrespect) against Rachels, that Arne would have good chances against Heidi Heron (Oxford's lady) on board 8, and that there was everything to play for in the middle, particularly with the withdrawal of the Oxford no.2, 'Slim' Jim Cavendish.

Cambridge then, travelled in good spirits, which rose higher when the grandeur of the venue was revealed; the RAC club is quite someting for those accustomed to the college league and weekend swisses.

The match itself, though, was a bitter disappointment. Steve Foister lost quickly on board 5, his provocative play inviting a crushing response, but it's hard to be too critical of a style that has brought him so many victories. Arne and Nick were also both soon in trouble, though with Joe, Andrew and Eddy all doing quite nicely we looked to be only marginally down. As time went by, though, things slipped away from us, as Nick was ground down and Andrew let his position drift. Top board was anybody's game, though you always assumed that a player of Rachel's strength 'must have it under control.' Our hopes lifted briefly as 'Steady' Eddy hacked off Hazelton in no uncertain terms *(The shafting of a lifetime - P.Wells)*, but then came the sickener as Joe managed to blow his own king open in one fell swoop. Arne's brave rearguard action netted us half a point, but it was too little too late, as John went down in a time scramble, leaving just Tash and Andrew to fight into the second session. After thrust and counter-thrust, Tash finally emerged with a draw, but Andrew's earlier indecision proved fatal as Piper made no mistakes.

The final scores then:

	Cambridge	v	Oxford
1.	J. Wilson	0—1	S. Rachels
2.	A. Hon	0—1	M. Piper
3.	N. Jakubovics	0—1	D. Wheeler
4.	E. Holland	1—0	M. Hazelton
5.	S. Foister	0—1	T. Brown
6.	J. Monk	0—1	G. D'Elia
7.	N. Regan	½-½	J. Redmond
8.	A. Hessenbruch	½-½	H. Heron
		2—6	

No complaints about the result, really; Unfortunately 'it was a game of two halves' but very little else *(not forgetting our Ed - Ed.)*.

As for the Dinner laid on in the evening by Watson Farley & Williams, (once again sponsoring the event generously), all I shall say is that a good time was had by all, and then draw a veil over the proceedings (and offerings).

Finally, some of the games:

□ **E.Holland**
■ **M.Hazelton**
Dragon Sicilian
by E.Holland

Nice place this. I like this carpet, the sandwiches are nice, and the coffee's great. Oh goodie I've got the White bits, this'll be quite fun.

1 e4 c5

Yes!!! I hope he plays a good variation.

2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 ♘×d4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 g6

Goodie, Goodie, Goodie, it's going to be a quick and very painful game.

6 ♗e3 ♗g7 7 f3 O–O 8 ♕d2 ♘c6 9 ♗c4 ♗d7 10 O–O–O ♕c7

What? I haven't seen this before. Rats! Oh well, doesn't matter.

11 ♗b3 ♘a5

I can claim to have played this move as long ago as 1938 against the late E.M.Jackson at Hastings. *(Know your back issues - Jan.1974 -Ed.)*

12 g4

Here we go, here we go, here we gooo-oh!

12...♘c4 13 ♗×c4 ♕×c4

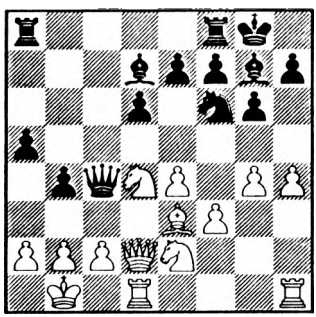
Big deal about the stupid queen move at the start.

14 h4 b5

Ah, maybe not.

15 ♔b1 b4 16 ♘ce2 a5

Oh... oh shit. The nasty Black bits are coming to get me; aarghh!!!



Now it looks like my horsey on d4 is a bit shafted eg:- (if I don't do anything) 17...e5 18 Nb3 a4 19 Na1 or Nc1 and I'm completely buggered up the back way. I might survive but I really can't stand playing such crap positions.

After much thought I worked out I didn't need to move the knight.

17 ♗h6 ♗×h6 17 ♕×h6 e5?

This is NOT a good move. My position is great, Schwing, party-time, it's excellent. Black's position makes me want to hurl.

I can't be too sure but it looks like I'm doing ok. I don't think he can get away with this. I seem to remember that at the time I thought 17...a4 was ok. The thing is he doesn't have to hurry here, I'm not mating that quickly.

19 h5!

Hazelton didn't believe this at all; even after the game he refused to believe the soundness of this variation. (I broke a long run of wins in this variation, so you can see his point of view).

19...e×d4

Oink, oink, piggy, piggy, knight pinchers pay the penalty (I read it in a book once).

20 hg

He's got to take it back with the f-pawn, otherwise he's dead (eg 21...Qe6 22 Nf4 Qe7 23 Nd5 Gotcha!).

20...fg 21 g5

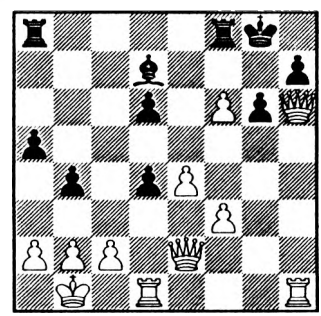
Around now I was spending a lot of time drinking the free drinks in an attempt to cool an over-heated brain. It's a bit confusing, but remember I had calculated this back on move 19.

21...Nh5 is crap. It loses to the oldest trick in the Dragon, 22 Rxh5 gxh5 23 g6 et les noirs abandonnent.

21...Qf7 is ok but after 22 gxf6 Black is totally tied down and has no answer to Ne2–f4–d5–e7–g6 Schwing!

Anyway, he played

21...♕×e2 22 g×f6



Now 22...Rf7 loses (but not without a struggle), 23 Rdg1 Kh8 24 Rxg6 and it's a mess, but I'm winning.

22...♕×d1+ 23 ♖×d1

Snore–Snore. The rest is straight-forward now.

23...♖×f6 24 ♕g5 ♖af8 25 ♕×a5 h5 26 ♕g5 ♗e8 27 b3 ♖×f3 28 ♖×d4 ♖3f4 29 ♖×b4 ♖g4 30 ♕e7 ♗f7 31 ♕×d6 h4 32 e5 ♖×b4 33 ♕×b4 ♖e8 34 ♕×h4 ♖×e5 35 a4 g5 36 ♕d4 ♖d5 37 ♕e4 ♖d6 38 a5 ♖g6 39 ♕d3 g4 40 a6 ♔h8 41 a7 ♖g8 42 ♕d4+ ♔h7 43 a8=♕ 1–0

And a nice little trick to finish. Now let's see how the rest of the team's doing... should be a nice meal anyway!

□ **J.Monk**
■ **G.D'Elia** *King's Indian. Board 6*
by J.Monk
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 ♘ge2(1) O–O(9)

This is a move, one of many *(! - Ed)*. 5 Nge2, being fairly unusual, has the advantage that no-one knows what to play against it.

6 ♘g3 e5 7 d5 c6 ♗e2 h5

Black's play is a little confused here. He's making no attempt to develop his vital queenside pieces.

9 ♗g5 ♕c7 10 ♕d2(15)

Not best. 10 h4 gives prospects of a kingside attack, and, as will be seen, allows the Bishop to be preserved more easily.

10...♘h7(23) 11 ♗h6

Again not best. 11 Be3 was the move. I was afraid of ...h4, but after Nf1 this pawn looks weak. What a great Knight on h7!

11...h4 12 ♗×g7 ♔×g7 13 ♘f1

At the time, I swopped the bishops to allow the knight to come to e3, but keeping the bishops on was probably better; White is still much better though.

13...c5 14 g3 h3

Surely this pawn must fall?

15 ♘e3(45) ♘f6(67)

So far I've kept to my rough schedule of 3 mins a move, whilst Black is heading for time trouble.

16 O–O–O

I want to play f4 in order to develop a strong kingside position/attack. Castling prepares this, but is perhaps superfluous.

16...a6

Counter-attacking on the queenside.

17 f4 ♘bd7 18 f5

In the post-mortem 18 Ng4 was suggested. I did consider it as it gives my pieces more freedom, eg the queen can move, but it also exchanges pieces relieving Black's cramped position.

18...♖b8 19 a4??

Scheiße - what a crap move. I aimed to slow down Black's attack but it merely opens up my king.

19 g4 was best. The threat of g5,f6 is massive, so g5 must be played. 20 Nc2 Nh7 21 Bf1 picking up the h-pawn, followed by opening up the h file for the rooks with h4 would be very strong. *(Ng4 deserves serious consideration again. This time it's better since only one pair of pieces gets exchanged, and the h-pawn may drop.)*

19...b5

This I didn't expect; Black plays b5 anyway.

20 cb(80) c4(100)

What the hell have I done?! I'm grabbing a few pawns, but Black's attack on my king is much better than my attack now.

21 ♘×c4

Played after much thought. Ne5-b3 or d3 would be overwhelmingly strong.

21...♘c5

Spot the threat.

22 ♕c2 ♗d7 23 b6 ♖×b6! 24 ♘×b6 ♕×b6

Look at it! On move 18 I had it all in my hand with a gem of a position, now it's all in ruins.

25 ♔d2 ♖c8

With 15 moves to the time-control, I have 5 minutes, he has 10.

26 ♕b1 ♘c×e4+

I can't bear to watch.

27 ♘×e4 ♗×f5 28 ♗d3 ♘×e4+ 29 ♗×e4 ♕f2+ 30 ♔d3 ♕f3+ 31 ♔d2 ♗×e4 32 ♖hf1 ♕g2+ 0–1

□ **J.Redmond**
■ **N.Regan**
King's Indian, Samisch. Board 7
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♗g7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 O–O 6 ♗g5 c5 7 d5 e6 8 ♘ge2 a6 9 a4 h6 10 ♗e3 ed 11 cd ♘bd7 12 ♕d2 ♘h7 13 ♘c1 ♘e5 14 ♗e2 ♕e7 15 O–O h5 16 ♖b1 ♗d7 17 b4 c4 18 f4 ♘g4 19 ♗d4 ♘hf6 20 ♗f3 b5 21 h3 ♘h6 22 a5 ♖ac8 23 ♘1e2 ♔h7 24 ♖be1 ♖g8 25 ♘g3 ♕f8 26 e5 ♘e8 27 e6 fe 28 de ♗c6 29 ♗×c6 ♖×c6 30 ♘ge4 ♗×d4 31 ♕×d4 ♕g7 32 ♕d5 ♖c7 33 ♔h2 ♖f8 34 ♖f3 ♖f5 35 ♕d2 ♘f6 36 ♘×d6 ♘g4+ 37 ♔g1 ♘h6 38 ♘×f5 ♘×f5 39 ♘e4 ♘×e4 40 ♖×e4 c3 41 ♕c1 c2 42 ♖e5 ♘d4 43 ♖d3 ♕×e5 44 f×e5 ♘e2+ 45 ♔h2 ♘×c1 46 ♖d7+ ♖×d7 47 e×d7 ♘e2 48 d8=♕ c1=♕ 49 ♕e7+ ♔h8 ½–½

□ **D.Wheeler**
■ **N.Jacubovics** *Exchange Lopez. Board 8*
1 e4 e5 2 ♘c3 ♘f6 3 ♗c4 ♗c5 4 d3 ♘c6 5 f4 d6 6 ♘f3 ♗g4 7 ♘a4 ♗b6 8 ♘×b6 a×b6 9 c3 O–O 10 h3 ♗×f3 11 ♕×f3 ef 12 ♗×f4 ♘e5 13 ♗×e5 d×e5 14 O–O ♕e7 15 ♔h1 ♘e8 16 ♖ae1 ♘d6 17 ♗b3 b5 18 a3 ♖ad8 19 ♕h5 ♔h8 20 ♕e2 f6 21 ♖f3 c6 22 ♕f2 ♘f7 23 ♖f1 ♘g5 24 ♖g3 ♘e6 25 ♖d1 ♘c5 26 ♗c2 ♖d7 27 ♕e2 ♖fd8 28 ♖e3 ♕e6 29 ♗b1 ♕b3 30 d4 ♕e6 31 d5 cd 32 ♗a2 ♕b6 33 ed ♘e6 34 ♖f1 ♘c7 35 ♖g3 ♘×d5 36 ♗×d5 ♖×d5 37 ♕g4 ♕c7 38 ♖f2 ♖d1+ 39 ♔h2 ♖d2 40 ♕f3 e4 41 ♕f4

♕×f4 42 ♖×f4 ♖e2 43 b3 ♖e8 44 ♖f5 ♖e7 45 ♖×b5 g6 46 ♔g1 e3 47 ♖f3 ♖c2 48 ♖f1 ♖×c3 49 ♖e1 ♖c2 50 ♖d5 f5 51 g3 ♖e3 52 ♖b5 ♔g7 53 ♖e2 ♔f6 54 ♔g2 ♔e6 55 ♔f3 ♔d6 56 ♖b6+ ♔c5 57 ♖b4 b5 58 ♔f4 ♖a7 59 ♖×e3 ♖×e3+ 60 ♔×e3 ♖×a3 61 ♖h4 ♖×b3+ 62 ♔f2 h5 63 g4 fg 64 hg ♖b4 1–0

□ **A.Hon**
■ **M.Piper**
Vienna Game. Board 2
1 e4 e5 2 ♘c3 ♘f6 3 ♗c4 ♗c5 4 d3 ♘c6 5 f4 d6 6 ♘f3 ♗g4 7 ♘a4 ♗b6 8 ♘×b6 a×b6 9 c3 O–O 10 h3 ♗×f3 11 ♕×f3 ef 12 ♗×f4 ♘e5 13 ♗×e5 d×e5 14 O–O ♕e7 15 ♔h1 ♘e8 16 ♖ae1 ♘d6 17 ♗b3 b5 18 a3 ♖ad8 19 ♕h5 ♔h8 20 ♕e2 f6 21 ♖f3 c6 22 ♕f2 ♘f7 23 ♖f1 ♘g5 24 ♖g3 ♘e6 25 ♖d1 ♘c5 26 ♗c2 ♖d7 27 ♕e2 ♖fd8 28 ♖e3 ♕e6 29 ♗b1 ♕b3 30 d4 ♕e6 31 d5 cd 32 ♗a2 ♕b6 33 ed ♘e6 34 ♖f1 ♘c7 35 ♖g3 ♘×d5 36 ♗×d5 ♖×d5 37 ♕g4 ♕c7 38 ♖f2 ♖d1+ 39 ♔h2 ♖d2 40 ♕f3 e4 41 ♕f4 ♕×f4 42 ♖×f4 ♖e2 43 b3 ♖e8 44 ♖f5 ♖e7 45 ♖×b5 g6 46 ♔g1 e3 47 ♖f3 ♖c2 48 ♖f1 ♖×c3 49 ♖e1 ♖c2 50 ♖d5 f5 51 g3 ♖e3 52 ♖b5 ♔g7 53 ♖e2 ♔f6 54 ♔g2 ♔e6 55 ♔f3 ♔d6 56 ♖b6+ ♔c5 57 ♖b4 b5 58 ♔f4 ♖a7 59 ♖×e3 ♖×e3+ 60 ♔×e3 ♖×a3 61 ♖h4 ♖×b3+ 62 ♔f2 h5 63 g4 fg 64 hg ♖b4 0–1

Horse Power

by N.S.Jakubovics

What has happened to Stormin' Norman? He seems to have been kept quiet since about the time of the Gulf War. Here are a couple of oldies from when Norman was at his peak. The games illustrate a common theme: the 'fork'.

□ **S.Connolly** (169)
■ **N.Jakubovics**
St. Albans 1990
Schliemann-Jaenisch Gambit
1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 f5!!
Putting the question to White's e-pawn.
4 d3?!
Poofy. 4 Nc3 is called for.
4...fe 5 de ♘f6 6 O–O ♗c5 7 ♘c3 O–O
Book gives 7...d6, but I don't see what's wrong with the move played. Eric isn't entirely immune but 8 Bxc6 bxc6 9 Nxe5 d6!? gives good compensation with two bishops (eg. 10 Nxc6 Qe8 11 Nd4 Nxe4 or 10 Nd3 Bd4 11 Bg5 Qe8).
8 ♗c4+ ♔h8 9 a3?!
Not entirely relevant.
9...d6 10 ♘g5!
Here is the first demonstration of the theme in question. 11 Nf7+ would, if allowed, clearly cause unrest in the Royal Marriage.
10...♕e8 11 ♘d5!
She's certainly persistant. However, this plan lacks a certain degree of subtlety.
11...♗b6 12 ♗e3 ♕g6!?
Sacrificing the exchange, but with both White knights safely out of the way, Black no longer has to worry about their forking potential.

13 ♗×b6 a×b6 14 ♘×c7 ♕×g5 15 ♘×a8 ♘h5

15...Bh3 is also playable: 16 Qf3 Bg4 17 Qg3 Nh5 *(not 17...Rxa8? 18 h3 ±, but 17...Nxe4!? is possible: 18 Qe3 Qg6! 19 Bd5 Bf3 20 g3 Nd4 with a very strong attack)* 18 Qe3 Qg6! and Black's attack is decisive. 15...Nxe4 allows White to put various bits on d5 indirectly defending the weak g2 square.

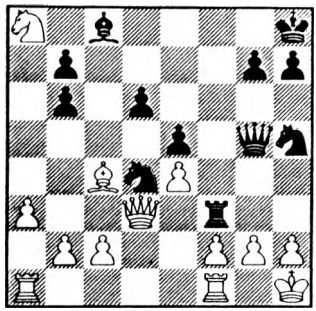
16 ♕d3?

16 Kh1 was forced. Now it's White who's being forked sideways.

16...♘d4

Renewing the threat of 17...Nf4 since now 18 Qg3 would be met with 18...Nde2+ and the White monarchy crumbles. Note that 17 Rae1 doesn't improve things after 17...Be6! 18 Bxe6 Nf4.

17 ♔h1 ♖f3!



18 ♕d1

18 gxf3 Nf4 19 Rg1 Qh5 20 Qf1 Qxf3+ 21 Rg2 Bh3 -+ or 20 Qd1 Nxf3 21 Rg2 Nxg2 22 Kxg2 Qh3+ -+

18...♘f4 19 g3 ♗g4 20 ♕d2 ♖d3! 21 h4

21 Bxd3 Bf3+ 22 Kg1 Nh3# keeps Norman happy.

21...♕×h4+ 22 g×h4 ♖h3+ 23 ♔g1 ♘f3# 0–1

Queen and mate ... not bad for a horse.

And now we fast forward to the Lloyds Bank Masters 1991...

□ **N.Jakubovics**
■ **A.Chowdhury**(2001, Bangladesh)
King's Indian Attack

1 e4

There were quite a few players from Bangladesh at this tournament and most of them seemed to be rated 2001. Having already lost to one in round two, I was a bit wary of this game.

1...c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d3

Yusopov used this system (with the colours reversed) to defeat Ivanchuk in one of the playoffs of their Candidates match, although he probably wasn't influenced by this particular game.

3...d5 4 ♘bd2 ♘c6 5 g3 g6 6 ♗g2 ♗g7 7 O–O ♘ge7 8 ♖e1 O–O?

It's best not to give White a target so quickly. Correct is 8...b6! where Najdorf–Trifunovic (Bled, 1961) continued 9 e5 Ba6 10 Nf1 Qc7 11 Bf4 (Qe2!) h6= ½-½.

9 e5 ♖b8 10 ♘f1 b5 11 ♗f4 a5 12 ♕d2 b4 13 g4! a4 14 ♘g3 a3

Despite Black's aggressive looking queenside counterplay White has quite a large advantage already. *(Isn't it marvellous how White can play 15 moves without thinking in this line and still come out with a won position... I'm tempted to start playing it again. -Ed.)*

15 b3 ♗a6 16 ♗g5 c4 17 ♗f6 cd 18 cd ♕b6 19 ♕g5 ♖fe8??

Black has underestimated the full value of the fork. 19...h6 was forced but 20 Qh4 Rb7 21 Bxg7 Kxg7 22 Qf6+ Kh7 23 Rad1 Qd8 24 h4 Ng8 25 Qf5 leaves White slightly better.

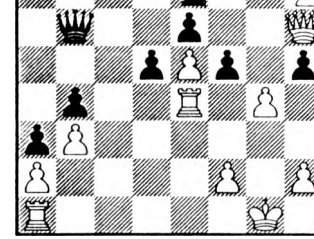
20 ♗×g7 ♔×g7 21 ♘h5+ ♔g8 22 ♕h6!

22 Nf6+ Kg7 23 Nd7 would have showed him how the fork works but then I remembered Emanuel Lasker's maxim: 'When you see a good fork ... wait ... don't play it... you might find a better one.'

22...g×h5 23 ♘g5 ♗×d3 24 ♗e4 ♗×e4

24...Nxe5 25 Bxh7+ Bxh7 26 Qxh7+ Kf8 27 Rxe5 +–

25 ♖×e4 ♘d8 26 ♘×h7 f5



My opponent seems to be a little confused about the whole forking concept. The White rook is admittedly attacked by two enemy pawns simultaneously but this does not in fact constitute a fork.

27 ♘f6+ ♔f7 28 ♕h7+ ♔f8 29 ♘d7# 1–0

Queen, rook and mate - beating Norman the first by a short head.

Bread and Butter Pudding

by Ian Gooding

Now that the Robert Maxwell of CUCC, Mr Steven Rix, is finally on his way out, *Dragon* contributors can sleep more easily in their beds, in the knowledge that their articles are safe from the personal invectives and tedious editorial insertions that characterised his career. *(Quite so! -Ed.)* Thus I am only now laying before the public the following game from the Michaelmas Term.

The reader has already had the opportunity to delight in Philip Best's defensive masterpiece against Kevin Freeman on board two of Downing's triumph over the league runners-up. Here is another nail in St Catharine's coffin.

□ **I.Gooding**
■ **B.L.Lien**
Sicilan Najdorf

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 ♘×d4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 f4 e6 7 ♕f3 ♗e7

This is either a Najdorf or a Scheveningen, depending on the price of cheese. Normal here are 7...Nbd7, 7...Qb6 or 7...Qc7 (see one of Rajko's articles in the last yellow *Dragon*).

8 g4

Played instantly, because this is the point of 7 Qf3. However, I had not examined any of the tactics after 8...e5 (attacking d4 and g4), naïvely assuming they were the same as those in the normal lines (which I don't understand anyway). As it happens, 8...e5 looks a bit of a pickled egg to me, as although 9 Nf5 g6 10 Nh6 seems okay, 9...Bxf5 10 gf Nc6 △...Nd4 doesn't. I suppose I would have played 11 Be3 Nd4 12 Qg2 and hoped. If there is any truth in any of this, then White should prefer 8 Be3. *(There is an interesting option in this line: 8...e5 9 fe Bxg4 10 exf6 Bxf3 11 fxe7 Qxe7 12 Nxf3 d5 with a complicated position. If White can develop properly he can give the Black queen a hard time. -Ed.)*

8...h6 9 ♖g1!

Other moves allow 9...e5. During the game I was worried about 9 Bd3 e5 10 fe de 11 Nf5 g6 12 Nxh6 Rxh6 13 Bxh6 Bxg4 which looks nasty and reckoned that 10 Nf5 g6 11 Ne3 was uncomfortable.

9...♘fd7

On 9...e5 10 fe de 11 Nf5 g6 12 Nxh6 is now much better for White. Instead, Black develops a fixation with the h4 square.

10 ♗e3 ♗h4+ 11 ♔d2

11 Bf2? Bxf2+ 12 Qxf2 Qb6 and the Queens come off.

11...♗e7?

Somewhat pointless, this allows me to castle by hand without losing tempi.

12 ♖d1

Unfortunately the attempt to gain time by 12 Bd3 and Raf1 fails to 12...Nc5.

12...♕c7 13 ♔c1 ♘c6 14 ♖d2

There is still no good square for the King's Bishop.

14...b5 15 g5 hg

15...h5? 16 g6

16 fg ♘ce5 17 ♕f4?

Now it's my turn to fritter away time. I had a fixation with keeping the Queen on the f-file and didn't notice the loss of tempo.

17...♘g6 18 ♕g3 ♘de5 19 h4 ♗b7

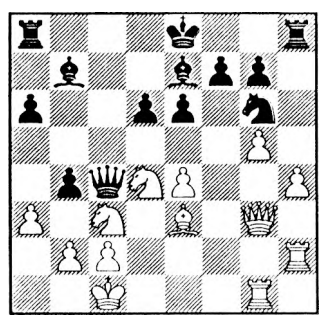
Black declines the pawn. This may be wise, as his pieces are now looking menacing. The assessment of this position is beyond me.

20 a3 ♘c4?

I thought the Knight was fairly huge on e5. Black is now back in trouble.

21 ♗×c4 ♕×c4 22 ♖h2 b4?

And this loses, for reasons which will become apparent shortly.



23 ab ♕×b4 24 h5 ♘e5 25 g6 f6 26 ♘×e6

Oh dear, the queen isn't covering e6 anymore.

26...♔d7 27 ♘×g7 ♗×e4 28 ♕h3+

For some reason I didn't see 28 Rh4, but it's not a big problem.

28...♔c6 29 ♘e6 ♗×g6? 30 ♕g2+ ♗e4 31 ♕×e4+ ♕×e4 32 ♘×e4 ♘f3 33 ♘d4+

Maybe this was the move he had missed.

33...♘×d4 34 ♗×d4 ♔d5 35 ♗×f6

Or perhaps it was this.

35...♗×f6 36 ♘×f6+ ♔c6 37 h6 ♖af8 38 ♖g6 1–0

Pronated as a Nong, Brian

or: The Greatest Game Ever Played in a Varsity Match

by John Wilson

Well, that's what Ray Keene called it, and seeing as I am neither a GM nor an OBE, who am I to argue? I can't help feeling that Aturupane—Norwood from 1989 would be a worthier candidate for this accolade, but perhaps the extensive champagne reception had taken its toll on Humpty Raymond's memory to at least as great a degree as it had on everyone else (Andrew Hon's after-dinner "speech" was especially memorable).

The general reaction seemed to be that he was lucky (according to the IM's present) and that I played well (according to the rest of our team). Much as I would like people to believe this, I feel the truth should be revealed ...

□ **S. Rachels** (IM, 2485)
■ **J. Wilson** (2220)
Caro-Kann, Panov Attack
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ed cd 4 c4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6 6 ♘f3 ♗g4 7 cd ♘xd5 8 ♕b3 ♗xf3 9 gf ♘b6!?

The alternative, 9...e6, has scored 2/2 for me (a long time ago), but can only be recommended to those of you who enjoy getting ground down in a tedious manner. The main line begins 10 Qxb7 Nxd4 11 Bb5+ Nxb5 12 Qc6+ Ke7 13 Qxb5 Qd7 14 Nxd5+ Qxd5 15 Qxd5 ed, and now after 16 0-0 or 16 Be3 Black's pieces, in particular his king, are awkwardly placed and he faces an uphill struggle to draw.

10 d5

I don't know why everyone insists on playing this against me, as 10 Be3 is a good alternative.

10...♘d4 11 ♗b5+

Hmph! No chance of a repeat of the all-time classic S. Arkell—Wilson, Lloyds Bank 1987, which continued thus: 11 Qd1 e5 12 de fe 13 Be3 Bc5 14 b4 (extra piece) Qf6 15 bxc5 Nxf3+ 16 Ke2 0-0 17 Rc1? TN *(theory is 17 cxb6 Rad8! [not 17...Qxc3 18 Bg2 Qc4+ 19 Qd3±, as in Zhuravlev—Gutman, USSR 1972] 18 Qc2 [sadly, things have progressed beyond the trouser-bursting frenzy of Hermlin—Pishkin, cr 1976, which went 18 Qc1 Qf5 19 Qb1 Qh5! 20 Qb2 Qg4 21 Qb3 Nd4+ -+] 18...Nd4+ 19 Bxd4 Qxd4 20 Ne4 [20 Ke1 Rxf2!+] Qxa1 21 Bg2 Qe5, Hansen—Kuijf, Graested 1990, and now 22 ba Qb5+ 23 Ke3! would have been unclear)* 17...Rad8 18 Ne4? Qb2+ 19 Bd2 Qb5+ 20 Ke3 Nd5#!

11...♘d7

11...Nxb5 12 Nxb5 a6 13 Nc3 △ 14 Be3 is not so good.

12 ♕a4 ♘xb5

The same goes for 12...Nxf3+?! 13 Ke2 Ne5 14 Bf4. Witness Carlier—Boersma, Amsterdam OHRA II 1987: 14...Ng6 15 Bg3 a6 16 Bxd7+ Qxd7 17 Qxd7 Kxd7 18 Na4 1-0.

13 ♕xb5 g6

13...e5 14 de fe 15 Be3 Qc7 16 Rc1 a6 17 Qb3± actually happened, in Alburt—Dorfman, USSR ch 1975.

I saw for myself that ...Qb6 now or later is bad, on account of the reply Be3, and Doric—Lagudin, Beograd open 1989 confirmed this: 13...Qb6 14 Be3 Qf6 15 Ke2 a6 16 Qxb7 Rb8 17 Qc6 Rxb2+ 18 Kf1 Kd8 19 Kg2 e5 20 Rab1 Rxb1 21 Rxb1 Qxc6 22 dxc6 Nf6 23 Rb7 Bd6 24 Bg5 Kc8 25 Bxf6 gxf6 26 Na4 Bc7 27 Nc5 Re8 28 Nxa6 Re7 29 Ra7 1-0

At this point, my opponent sank into thought. It rapidly became clear that my Bertie held a morbid fascination for him. So, forty minutes later ...

14 ♕xb7?! TN

"I've got two GM norms, one US championship and an extra pawn to boot, so what are you going to do about it, sonny?" — S.Rachels. What I did know about this position was that Hübner had declined this kind offer of a pawn, choosing 14 Bg5 h6 15 Bf4 Bg7 16 0-0 0-0 17 Rfe1 *(17 Qxb7 Ne5! with compensation)* and going on to win (Hübner—Hermann, Bundesliga 1983). However, Black's defeat probably owed at least as much to the strength of his opponent as his position at this point.

Instead, 15 Bh4 Bg7 16 d6! g5 17 Bg3 *(17 de Bxc3+ 18 bxc3 Qxe7+ 19 Kf1 0-0-0 =+)* 17...0-0 18 h4 Rc8 is a piece of random analysis attributed to Balashov and Kozlov.

14...♗g7 15 O-O O-O 16 ♗g5 h6 17 ♗h4 ♖b8

Rachels preferred ...Ne5, either now or after flicking in 17...h6 18 Bg3, and perhaps if I had known everything in the last note I would have given it more thought. What I played

seems pretty good too though, suggesting that the bishop should have gone to f4, transposing to the note above.

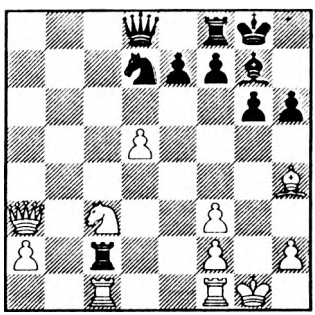
18 ♕×a7 ♖×b2 19 ♕a3

I hadn't seen this and expected something limp like 19 Rac1, when Black has satisfactory compensation. After the initial panic at seeing myself horribly forked against the run of play, it turned out that my position could stagger on after all.

19 d6 g5 20 Qa3 ed 21 Qxb2 gh is also possible.

19...♖c2 20 ♖ac1

20 Bxe7? Rxc3! leaves White laughing on the other side of his face.



20...♖×c3

This is a perfectly reasonable move, and I don't think White should win after it. At this point, though, in the post mortem, the world's most prolific author of chess-related pot-boilers waddled over and whopped out the incredible 20...Ne5!!. After 21 Rxc2 Nxf3+ and 22...Nxh4, Black has excellent play (at the time it seemed that White was struggling to save himself). In the event of 21 Kg2, the horsey just plunges on: 21...Nxf3!! and if 22 Kxf3 Bxc3!. Rachels suggests that 21 Bxe7 is possibly best, although 21...Qd7/c8 22 Ne4 Qh3 23 Ng3 Rxa2 is still very unclear.

21 ♖×c3 ♗×c3 22 ♕×c3 ♘b6!

Not 22...g5 23 Bf3 Nf6 because of 24 d6! ed 25 Rd1, when Black can choose between 25...Ne8 and a polite resignation.

23 ♕e3 g5 24 ♗×g5!?

The only way to seriously play for a win.

24...♘×d5 25 ♕e5 hxg6 26 ♕×g5+ ♔h7 27 ♔h1 e5! □

This cost me most of my remaining time, but nothing else will do — 27...e6?? 28 Qh5+ Kg7 29 Rg1+ Kf6 30 Qg5 mate is sufficient reason to leave e6 vacant.

28 ♕f5+ ♔h6 29 ♖d1

It looks like curtains again, but ...

29...♖g8! 30 ♕h3+

30 Qe4 fails to 30...Qg5!

30...♔g6 31 ♕g4+ ♔f6??

Not having time to remember that I was supposed to be keeping ...Qg5 at the ready, while noticing 31...Kh6 32 Rxd5!. Now 32...Qxd5?! 33 Qxg8 is the wrong choice of ending, as when Black has finished doing whatever it is that he wants to do (i.e. taking on a2 at some point), he tends to run into Qh8+ Kg6; Qxe5, when things look bad.

But the alternative capture, 32...Rxg4! 33 Rxd8 Ra4 34 Rd2 Kg5, forcibly reminded Humpty Raymond of a Botvinnik—Petrosian World Championship match game, and the assembly of players stronger than I pronounced that White should not win.

32 ♕e4 ♔e6 33 f4

Now you might think I had a case for resigning here (33...Qd6 34 f5+ of course) but both players were sufficiently short of time for it to be worth a few more moves, in view of the potential mating net around the White king.

33...♘×f4 34 ♕c6+ ♔f5 35 ♕c2+ e4 36 ♕c5+ ♔g4 37 ♖×d8 ♖×d8 38 h3+?

Now, after 38...Nxh3!, Black threatens to swing the knight round to f3, and I later learned from Bob Wade that none other than Jonathan Speelman had said that he'd have quite fancied his chances with the Black pieces in a Blitz game *(e.g. 39 Qe3 Ng5 40 Kg2 f5 41 Qg3+ Kh5 42 a4 Nf3 — Riz)*.

Unfortunately for the Book of All-Time Classic Swindles, and for me, I (possibly) noticed 38...Kh4?? 39 Qe7+ and 30...Kxh3?? 39 Qf5+, forgot that moving one's king isn't always the only way to get out of check, and so shunted it to the one remaining square ...

38...♔f3?? 1–0(time)

At this point my flag fell, but just to make sure, Stuart added **39 ♕e3#** as an after thought.

The Further One Travels, The Less One Knows

by S.A.M. Foister

Why do people travel so far for a game of chess? To find out I joined a party headed for the Budapest Spring Festival in March. It was quite a happy bunch of people, and here's a quick resumé of how they did.

Keith Arkell led the way with 3½/4, but in his customary aggressive style drew the last five. Susan Arkell and Stuart Clarke started well but failed later, losing ELO points. Danny Copeland lost some interesting games, Paul Garner muddled through, (and will probably tell you all about it himself when he starts at Trinity in October,) and Marc Bautista won some lost positions (and lost the won ones). James Cobb achieved a sizeable part ELO, Emilia Holland just managed a women's part rating (despite taking six hours to lose a dead drawn ending) and Clare Lusher didn't quite.

Budapest is a nice city, built on some impressive hills around the grey Danube. Currently being cleaned up (with German money) it houses almost 8 million people putting it amongst the largest cities in Europe. Not as clean as the rest of the old East, but the beer was pretty good. Ask Danny and Stuart about the vodka! One particular feature, (which explains my first round performance) that I would like to see repeated elsewhere, was the welcoming party, a group of Miss Hungary contestants. Anyway, down to the chess.

ROUND ONE: White v. Tamas Kulcsar (Hun, 2260). My mind was elsewhere, but he took 52 moves to beat me in a dreadful Veresov.

ROUND TWO: Black v. Monika Grabics (Hun, 2095). Best legs I have ever seen on a rated player. Far too cute to beat. The game contained errors, but was also quite cute...

□ **M.Grabics**
■ **S.A.M.Foister**
Come-And-Get-Me Gambit

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d6 3 ♘c3 ♘d7 4 f4 ♕c7 5 ♘f3 e5 6 ♗c4 ♗e7

Yes, I am losing already.

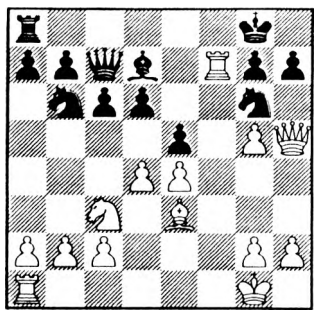
7 ♘g5 ♗×g5 8 f×g5 ♘b6 9 ♗b3 ♘e7 10 0–0 0–0 11 ♗e3 ♘g6 12 ♕h5 ♗d7

Planning ...ed,...c5 and ...c4 winning the bishop, but

13 ♗×f7+

13 Rxf7 would have been better.

13 ♖×f7 14 ♖×f7



Now, 14...Kxf7 isn't much fun, but...

14 ...♘c4! 15 ♖×d7 ♕×d7 16 ♕e2 ♘×e3 17 ♕×e3 ♕g4 18 h3 ed 19 ♕×d4 ♕×g5 20 ♕c4+ ♔h8 21 ♕e2 ♖f8 22 ♖f1 ♘f4 23 ♔h1 ♖f6

...and things are looking rather good.

24 ♕d2 ♘×h3 25 ♖×f6 g×f6 26 ♕×d6 ♕c1+ 27 ♔h2 ♕f4+ 28 ♕×f4 ♘×f4 29 ♔g3 ♘e6

And so on up to move 55 of a tense ending before we agreed a draw.

Later in the tournament, Paul went and beat her (the heartless beast that he is). Only Marc did the honourable thing and lost to her like a gentleman. Paul and Danny were later spotted helping Monika with her English homework. *(She'd have got a better mark without their help from what I know of those two -Ed.)*

ROUND THREE: White v. Paterne Velvart (Hun,2155 WM). Paterne seemed to have her mind elsewhere...

□ **S.A.M.Foister**
■ **P.Velvart**
French Defence

1 d4 d5 2 ♘c3 ♘f6 3 ♗g5 e6 4 e4 de 5 ♘×e4 ♗e7 6 ♗×f6 ♗×f6 7 ♘f3 0–0 8 c3 ♗e7 9 ♕c2 b6 10 h4 f5 11 ♘g3 ♗b7 12 0–0–0 ♗×f3 13 g×f3 ♗×h4 14 ♗c4 ♗g5+ 15 ♔b1 ♕f6 16 ♖de1 ♖e8 17 f4 ♗×f4 18 ♘h5 ♕h6 19 ♕×f5 ♗d6 20 ♗×e6+ ♔h8 21 ♘f6 1–0

ROUND FOUR: Black v. Urich Römer (Ger,2230 F). Hard-fought all the way to move 58 for a draw; this time I played the c6/d6 stuff soundly.

ROUND FIVE: Black against Soren Bech Hansen (Den,2245)

□ S.B.Hansen
■ S.A.M.Foister
Come-And-Get-Me Gambit

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d6 3 ♘f3 ♘d7 4 ♗d3 e5 5 0–0 ♘f6 6 b3 ♗e7 7 ♗b2 ♕c7 8 ♘bd2 0–0 9 de ♘×e5 10 ♘×e5 d×e5 11 ♘c4 ♘d7 12 ♕h5

Attempting to create a weakness...

12...g6

...but I wanted to do this anyway.

13 ♕e2 ♖e8 14 ♖ad1 ♗f8 15 ♖d2 ♘c5

I'm beginning to like this.

16 ♔h1 h5!

I like this move, preparing to play Bg4 if he plays f4.

17 f3 ♗h6 18 ♖2d1 b5 19 ♘e3 a5 20 ♕f2 ♕a7

This is quite an awkward position for White – all the play is mine.

21 ♗c1 ♗f8

A lot of careful manoeuvering is about to happen.

22 ♕g3 ♗a6

I want to be able to play ...Nxd3 and ...b4 to win horribly but I still need to be careful.

23 ♗e2 ♗g7 24 ♕e1 ♕b6 25 ♗d2 ♘e6 26 ♗d3 ♗b7

I still want to play ...b4 but I want to keep the white-squared bishops on.

27 g3 b4

I know this gives up the c4 square but sacrifices have to be made.

28 ♘c4 ♕c7 29 ♗e3 c5 30 ♕f2 ♖ed8

If 30...Nd4 31 Bxd4 and I think it's drawn.

31 ♔g1 a4 32 ♖de1

Preparing f4.

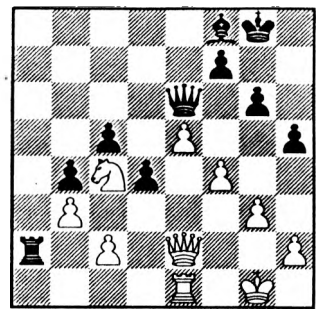
32...ab 33 ab ♖a2 34 ♖a1 ♖da8 35 ♖×a2 ♖×a2 36 ♖d1 ♘d4 37 ♗×d4 e×d4 38 ♖e1 ♗h6 39 f4 ♖a8 40 e5

I wanted to play Qc6 here and spent ages trying to find a sac that worked. I couldn't, so...

40...♗f8 41 ♗e4 ♗×e4 42 ♖×e4 ♕c6 43 ♖e1 ♖a2 44 ♕e2 ♕e6

I still think I'm winning this. I'd agreed to meet up with some guys half an hour ago for some beers. After missing that, I wasn't going to accept a draw.

Even if you haven't played through the rest of the game, follow it on a board from here for a really cute 20 moves.



45 ♕d3 ♗e7 46 ♘d2 ♔g7 47 ♔g2 h4 48 ♘f3 ♕f5 49 ♖e4

If 49 Qxf5 gxf5 50 Re2 d3!

49...♖a1 50 ♕e2 g5 51 h3 hg 52 fg ♖c1

This is getting messy. I had actually analysed it out from here. I love these positions.

53 ♔×g3 ♗×g5 54 ♖g4

If 54 Nxg5 Qxg5+ 55 Rg4 Rg1+

54...♖×c2 55 ♕d1

If 55 Rxg5+ Qxg5+ 56 Nxg5 Rxe2

55...♖c3

A critical little move.

56 h4 ♕×e5+ 57 ♔g2 ♕e3

Giving up the bishop but I have compensation.

58 ♖×g5+ ♔f8 59 ♖e5

This isn't the best defence but he's lost anyway.

59...♕f4 60 ♕e2 ♖×b3 61 ♖×c5 ♖e3 62 ♕d1 d3 63 ♖e5 ♕g4+ 64 ♔f2 ♖×e5 65 ♕×d3 0–1

I was quite chuffed with that one.

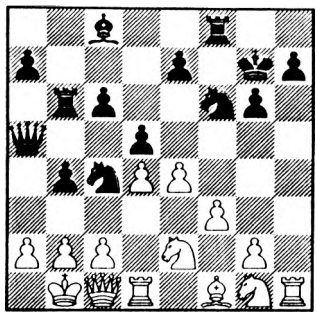
ROUND SIX: White v. Lars Thiede (Ger,2265). This guy had acted as our English–German translator a few nights before, another member of the German party translating German–Hungarian. We did get roughly what we ordered. Anyway, I blundered from a winning position:

□ S.A.M.Foister
■ L.Thiede
Veresov

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♗g5 g6 3 ♘c3 d5 4 f3 ♗g7 5 ♕d2 c6 6 ♗h6 0–0

'Kick my head in, please!'

7 ♗×g7 ♔×g7 8 e3 ♘bd7 9 0–0–0 b5 10 h4 ♕a5 11 ♔b1 ♘b6 12 h5 b4 13 ♘ce2 ♘c4 14 ♕c1 ♖b8 15 e4 ♖b6 16 hg fg



Black's principal threat in this position is ...Ra6, which can only be met by Nc1 (after getting the queen out of the way). The main line of my analysis was 17 Qh6+ Kf7 18 e5 Ra6 19 Nc1 and I'm winning. However, I was worried that Black might be able to sac things for a perpetual (he can't) so I decided on a different move order expecting to transpose.

17 e5?

Thinking 17...Ra6 18 Qh6+ Kf7 19 Nc1 but unfortunately he has the simple

17...♘g8!

and a winning position has become totally lost. I play the game out though.

18 ♕g5 ♗f5 19 ♖d3

Hoping to trap his knight.

19...b3! 20 ♖×b3 ♘d2+ 21 ♔a1 ♘×b3+ 22 c×b3 ♕×a2 23 ♔×a2 ♖a6 # 0–1

It was about this stage that I discovered Hungarian Black Beer. It was Hungarian, black, and tasted a bit like stout, only better. It also made you fart like stout (well it did me), only an awful lot better. Apologies to Stuart, who had to share a room with me.

ROUND SEVEN: White v.Jozsef Juhausz (Hun,2235). A mistake I've made before; 8 Re1 instead of 8 Qe1 in the Veresov. Only a small one but he killed me for it. 0–1. Not doing very well with White, am I?

ROUND EIGHT: Black v. David Arpad (Hun,2225). 1 c4 c6 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 g3 g6 Thirty moves of manoeuvering with only a pawn exchange at move 27. Then things started happening; by move 50 I clearly had an extra piece, and he resigned.

The maths on the last eight games: I have a part-rating of 2232: all eight of my opponents have been rated. All I need is one more rated and to keep my performance over 2205 for a full rating. There are only two other unrateds on 4/8 and some of the others are big enough cheeses for ratings even if I lose. Our team manager said that he would arrange the right pairing for me. I don't know exactly what he said to the controllers, but they went to some trouble to produce:

ROUND NINE: White v. Erik Nikolai (NDL,unrated) 60 uninteresting moves to a draw. No comment!

'I'm A Flesh Fanatic Psycopath'

says A. Cooper

□ **S. A. M. Foister**
■ **A. G. Cooper**
Queen's Pawn

1 d4 d5 2 g3 ♘f6 3 ♗g2 ♗g4 4 c3 e6
5 ♕b3 ♕c8 6 ♘bd2 ♘bd7 7 f3 ♗h5
'Nobody gonna take you.'
8 e4 de 9 fe c6
'Take another turn, the rules have all been burned.'
10 ♘h3 e5 11 0–0 ♕c7 12 ♘c4 ♗e2
13 ♖e1 ♗×c4 14 ♕×c4 ♘b6 15 ♕b3 ♗d6
'I'm going nowhere fast'
16 ♗g5 ♘g4 17 ♖ad1
'I can't stop the cyclone that's about to explode.'
17...h6 18 ♗c1 0–0 19 ♕c2 c5?
'How could I be so blind?'
20 ♕e2 ♘f6 21 ♖f1 ♘bd7 22 d5 c4 23 g4 ♘h7
'I'm hanging on like a spider blowing in the wind. This storm's gonna tear a hole right through the web I'm in.'
24 g5 hg 25 ♘×g5 ♘df6
'I can't take it!'
26 ♘×h7 ♘×h7 27 ♖f5 b5 28 ♖df1
'I'm way too young to die!'
28...♕e7 29 ♕g4
'You know you hate this game.'
29...f6
'Got my own private hell.'
30 ♖h5 ♘g5 31 ♕h4 g6
'A triple X-rated movie starring me and you.'
32 ♖h8+ ♔g7 33 ♗×g5 fg
'One thing I'll never do is swallow my pride.'
34 ♕h6 # 1–0
'I'd like to start again'

All quotes used, courtesy of A. Cooper (Alice in fact!).

Mean Caissan Breaches

Disabling The Hearsay

by Steve Rix

The sight of a disturbingly large number of CUCC's membership jumping on the Disreputable Chess Openings bandwagon has prompted me to do likewise. After all, what other excuse can I use to inflict a large number of my games on the rapidly-expanding readership?

However, owing to the severe calamity of my not possessing a Personal Computer, I am unable to stick to the tried-and-loathed format of "147 games wot I found on my NICbase recently." Humble apologies.

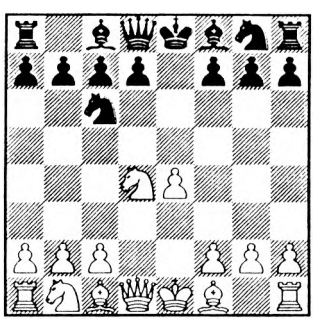
Disturbing allegations have been circulating to the effect that I commit vast wads of opening theory to memory each evening. I would like to Scotch these rumours.

□ **S. Rix (Trinity I)**
■ **P. Fallon (Girton)**
Cuppers ¼ final, Cambridge 1992

1.	**e2–e4**	**e7–e5**
2.	**♘g1–f3**	**♘b8–c6**
3.	**d2–d4**	**e5×d4**

3...d6 is undeservedly popular in the lower echelons of chess, so it is no surprise that it has occurred a number of times in my games. White can choose between 4 de de 5 Qxd8+ and 4 Bb5 (with a type of Steinitz Ruy Lopez).

4. **♘f3×d4**



In my youth, I would play 4 Bc4 or 4 c3 (the Goring Gambit), following each line in my head. But I am old and cynical now.

4. ... **♘g8-f6**

4...Bc5 is the main alternative, and will be maligned in the next game.

4...Nxd4 5 Qxd4 clearly gives White a development and space advantage; he can castle on either side with good prospects of attack.

4...Qh4 (Steinitz) is the sort of irritating move you occasionally encounter in the last round of a tournament. Rix — S.P.Isaac,, Hull 1991(5) continued **5 Nb5 Qxe4+ 6 Be2 Kd8** (Botterill and Harding in *The Scotch Game* give 6...Bb4+ 7 Bd2 Kd8 as "the best move in the circumstances." After 8 O-O Nf6 9 N1c3 Qh4 10 g3 Qh3, White should reject the spectacular 11 Nxc7+?! Kxc7 12 Nd5+ Nxd5 13 Bg4 (for Black gets too much for the queen) and instead play 11 Nd5 Bxd2 12 Nxf6 gf 13 Qxd2 d6 14 Rad1, with attacking chances against Black's centralised king and weak pawns) **7 O-O Nf6 8 Nd2 Qe8(!) 9 Nf3**. At this point, I joked to a spectator that we had started the game with Black's king and queen interchanged, to bypass existing theory. Imagine my surprise when he summoned a Controller to ask us to start again from the orthodox position! What a bonehead! Meanwhile, I was staring at the board trying to dream up some compensation, not having read the advice of Staunton that in such positions pawns are better off back in the box because they merely get in the way on the board. I might have had some, because it ended (1-0, 28), but I wasn't so sure at the time.

Incidentally, readers may recall the name of Mr Isaac from his walk-on part in our highly-literate new Editor's "Freshers' Report" epic in the last issue. At the time, though, he was merely a random 121 who had hit 2½/3 in this Open.

5. **♘d4×c6**

5 Nc3 is a heavily-analysed alternative; Black is considered to have little difficulty in equalising. Some examples:
(a) **5...Bc5 6 Be3 Bb6**, Rix — K.Bücker, College League 1989-90 (by transposition). After 7 Be2 d5?! Black obtained little compensation: 8 ed Nb4 9 Bb5+ Bd7 10 Bc4

Bg4 11 f3 Qe7 12 Kf2 0-0-0 13 Re1 (1-0, 34).
(b) **5...Bb4 6 Nxc6 bc** 7 Bd3 d5 8 ed cd 9 0-0 0-0 10 Bg5 Bxc3 (10...Be7, 10...Be6 and 10...c6 are alternatives) 11 bc Qd6?? (Playable only after 11...h6 12 Bh4) 12 Bxf6 Qxf6 13 Qh5 g6 14 Qxd5, and White converted his extra pawn in C. W. Baker — Rix, Paignton (1) 1991.
(c) **5...Bb4 6 Nxc6 Bxc3+** 7 bc bc 8 Bd3 d6 9 0-0 0-0 10 Bg5 Re8 11 f4 h6 12 Bh4 c5? 13 Bb5 Re6 14 e5 and Black soon collapsed, Rix — M.J.Tuplin, Hull (1) 1991.

5.	...	**b7×c6**
6.	**♗f1–d3**	**d7–d5**

Two bunnies in the 1990 Chorley Major essayed 6...d6 7 0-0 Be7 8 Nc3 0-0 9 f4 Re8 10 Qf3 Rb8 11 b3 Bb7, when White obtained an unchallenged space advantage but had difficulty finding a middlegame plan. Perhaps the gratuitously violent g4-g5 Δ Qh5, Rf3 is worth slightly more than total derision.

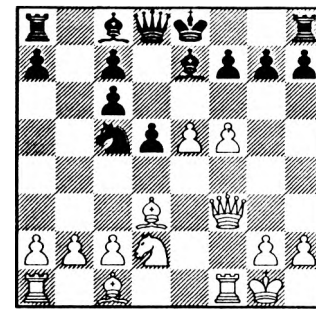
A former CUCC Vice-President, David Craggs, opted for the unusual 6...Be7 when we met in Round 2 of the 1990 University Championships. This move seems out of keeping with the demands of the position (see next note). Play continued 7 0-0 d5 8 Nc3 0-0 9 e5 Nd7 10 Qh5 g6 11 Qe2 (with good attacking prospects) 11...Nc5 12 Bh6 Re8 13 Rae1 Nc6 14 Nd1 Nd4 15 Qd2 Nf5 16 Bxf5 Bxf5 17 Ne3 Be6 18 c3 c5 19 Rd1!? c6 20 f4 d4 21 f5, and some complications subsided into a level opposite-coloured bishops ending (but (0-1, 49) after some very eccentric attacking play beyond my sober comprehension).

7.	**♘b1–d2**	**♗c8–g4?!**

Botterill & Harding give 7...Bd6 as "undoubtedly Black's most active and best defence." After 7...Be7 8 0-0 0-0, White can execute the plan c4, b3, Qc2, Bb2. Thus in the game Craggs—Rix above, 8 Nd2 would have been preferable.

After 7...Bd6 8 0-0 0-0 9 h3 (necessary, as "9 c4 is not on because 9...ed simply wins a pawn (10 Nxe4 Nxe4 11 Bxe4 Qh4)" say Botterill & Harding, although 12 f4 avoids losing a piece and 10 Bxe4 Nxe4 11 Nxe4 is also a legal sequence) 9...Re8 10 ed cd with a reasonably balanced position.

8.	**f2–f3**	**♗g4–e6**
9.	**0–0**	**♗f8–e7**
10.	**e4–e5**	**♘f6–d7**
11.	**f3–f4**	**♘d7–c5**
12.	**f4–f5**	**♗e6–c8**
13.	**♕d1–f3**	



White's space advantage is larger than usual, and Black's king can expect to encounter enemy forces wherever it chooses to plant itself. Black heads for simplification ...

13...♗g5 14 ♘b3 ♘×b3
14...Nxd3 15 cd Δ Nc5, f6, Qg3. Or 14...Bxc1 15 Raxc1 Δ cb or cd as appropriate.
15 ♗×g5 ♕×g5 16 ab 0-0
There is no obvious safe haven.
17 ♖a4 ♗d7 18 ♖g4!
I was able to justify 17 Ra4 to myself, because White can follow up with Rfa1 to clobber Black's weak a-pawn. After all, what are open files for if not for doubling rooks on?
But when I realised that there were certain practical difficulties (Rxa7 Rxa7; Rxa7 Qc1+) I thought "What the hell ..."
18...♕h6 19 ♕g3 c5
After the game, we thought this was a waste of time and that 19...Rae8 was better (19...Rfe8 20 e6 fe 21 f6 +-) but 20 Rh4 Qd2 21 e6 fe 22 f6 wins anyway.
20 ♖h4 ♕d2 21 ♖ff4
Most thematic, this blocks Black's queen off from h6 and prepares rook sacs everywhere.
21...♖ae8 22 f6 g6 23 ♖×h7
If he tries 23...Kxh7, both the consistent 24 Qh4+ Kg8 25 Qh6 and the gratuitously violent 24 Bxg6+ fg 25 Rh4+ Qh6 26 Rxh6+ Kxh6 27 Qh4# bring home the booty.
23...♖×e5 24 ♖g7+ ♔h8 25 ♖h4+ ♖h5 26 ♖×h5+ gh 27 ♖h7#
Both players were disappointed with this move; I thought I was playing a square-vacating rook sacrifice, preparing Qg7# next move!

Half-time Break:

Election Special

While the rest of the University went home in preparation for Easter festivities, our honourable retiring Vice-President, Ian Gooding, stayed on in Cambridge, to agonize about the dilemma of being a LibDem supporter.

"If you want the LibDems to have some power, and Labour look like being significantly ahead in the country, then you may want to vote Conservative in a Lab-Con marginal to get the best chance of a hung Parliament," opined a Trinity PhD student in a debate on a computer bulletin board. "In fact, I am seriously considering doing just that if Cambridge has indeed become a two-way marginal," concurred the star Downing player.

Later, following the narrow Conservative victory which illustrated the folly of such reasoning, the Editorial Mafia interviewed off the record CUCC's top economic adviser, Mr. P.J.Crocker, B.A. "What does the election mean for the country?" we asked. After the sound of scribbling on the back of an envelope came the reply: "About £100 more p.a. for me."

Meanwhile, Ian Gooding was devastated. "I am far too depressed to make any meaningful contribution to this item. Oh to live in a country where the electorate can think one step beyond its next tax cut."

And, with that, it's back to the studio ...

Game number 0898-101010
□ S. Rix
■ N. C. Pyper (Dr)
College League 1991-2

1.	e2–e4	e7–e5
2.	♘g1–f3	♘b8–c6
3.	d2–d4	e5×d4
4.	♘f3×d4	♗f8–c5

Most games in this line continue with 5 Nb3 Bb6 6 a4 a6 7 Nc3, which looks fairly innocuous but can explode into mad riots of outrageously hackish behaviour. Some examples:

(a) 5 Nb3 Bb6 6 a4 a6 7 Nc3 Nge7 8 Bf4?! (Rix—Whitworth, schools match 1985 (!)) 8... 0-0 9 Qd2 Ng6 10 a5 Ba7 11 Be3 Bxe3 12 Qxe3 f5?! (Black lets his fetish with **Freddie** the f-pawn get the better of him. He shouldn't be doing too badly if he plays sensibly) 13 Bc4+! Kh8 14 ef Re8 15 Ne4 d5 16 0-0-0! (the crowd and my opponent had missed this and were expecting resignation) 16...Bxf5 17 Bxd5 with a safe extra pawn for White (½-½, ~40).

(b) 5 Nb3 Bb6 6 Nc3 Nge7 7 Bg5 (Rix—Fletcher, BUCA 1990: this is more effective than the inept 7 Bf4. The moves a4 a6 could be inserted here if White wants) 7...d6 8 Nd5 h6 9 Qh5 Rf8 10 Bf6! Be6 11 Bb5?! (I can't see much wrong with Bxg7) 11...Bxd5 12 ed gf 13 dc Nxc6?? (I suppose 13...bc 14 Ba6 Qd7 15 0-0 Δ Rae1, Qxh6, Qf3, etc isn't too hot) 14 0-0-0 Bxf2?! (14...Qd7 15 Rhe1+ Kd8 16 Qxh6) 15 Bxc6+ bc 16 Qe2+ 1—0.

For some time, I have been dabbling in an alternative line. It involves a less-analysed developing move which threatens a one-move cheapo — could one ask for more?

5.	♗c1–e3	♕d8–f6

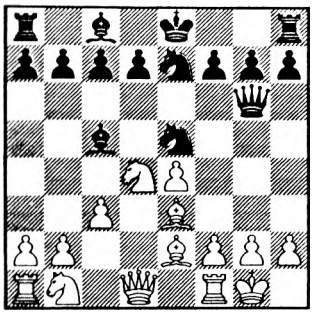
It is unusual for a queen to venture out so early in the game, but this is the normal line. 5...Bb6 has been tried against me once, as mentioned in the first game.

6.	c2–c3	♘g8–e7
7.	♗f1–c4	

White is trying to hinder ...d5 whilst provoking ...Ne5; this knight may later become an object of attack.

I tried the quieter 7 Be2 in a County match against Essex in my first year in Cambridge. Black should try 7...d5 8 0-0 Bxd4 *(8...de 9 Nb5)* 9 cd de 10 d5 Ne5 11 Qa4+, as given by Dr. Alekhine many moons ago. Mr Sturgeon actually played 7...Ng6 8 0-0 Bb6 9 Na3 0-0 10 Nc4 d6 11 Qd2 h6 12 f4 Re8 13 Nxb6 ab 14 Bd3 Nf8 15 a3 Ne6 16 Nb5 Qd8 17 f5, but won nevertheless.

7.	...	♘c6–e5
8.	♗c4–e2	♕f6–g6
9.	0-0	



The first time I achieved this position, against Joseph Monk in the College League, I continued somewhat dopily with 9 Bf3?! Nxf3+ 10 Qxf3 d6 11 Nd2 Bd7 12 0–0 0–0, when White's pieces were tangled up and misplaced. Things got even worse after the inept 13 Ne2 Bg4 14 Nf4 Bxf3 15 Nxg6 Nxg6 16 gf, but the game was eventually drawn after further misadventures.

We met again in the University Championships, last January. Fearing an improvement, he deviated with 8...N7g6 9 0–0 Nf4 10 Nd2 0–0 11 N2b3 Bb6 12 Qd2 Nxe2+ 13 Qxe2 d6, and won impressively enough.

Joe was right to be suspicious of my repeating a previously–unsuccessful opening, for *Informator 52* had just reached my paws. This magnificent tome featured 8 games in the Scotch (plus a further 9 extracts in the notes), including 2 in this very line. This adoption of the Scotch by the world's top players is very disturbing: I shall have to find another opening people know nothing about. I blame that Kasparov guy for starting the craze ...

Steingímsson — Lukács (Kecskemet 1991) continued 9...d6 ("!, N", etc.) 10 f4!? Qxe4 11 Bf2! with great complications (White managed to win, if that proves anything).

The older move is 9...d5, intending 10 ed Bb3 11 Bf3 0–0–0∓, was given a punt in Ehlvest—Belyavsky, Rejkavík 1991, proceeding: 10 Bh5 ("!, N", etc. 10 Nb5 and 10 Kh1 are also analysed) Qxe4□ 11 Nd2 Qd3 12 N4f3 Bd6 13 Nxe5 Bxe5 14 Bc5 g6 15 Be2 Qf5 16 Nf3 Bf6 17 Re1 0–0 18 Bd3 Qd7 19 Nc5 Qd8 20 Qf3 Kg7 21 h4 (threatening a pretty mate by Nd7 Bxd7; Qxf6+ Kxf6; Bd4#) 21...Bxh4 22 Qf4 Bf6 23 Nf3 Ng8 (Qxf6+ was on again) 24 Bxf8+ and White won after a time scramble.

But the CUCC Senior Treasurer had other ideas:

9. ... ♕g6×e4!?

"And why not?" — B. Norman.

This disgracefully obvious move appears to be so far beneath contempt that none of the otherwise comprehensive sources on the Scotch that I have consulted even mention its legality. Swift & Pickett come closest, giving 9...d5"!" without analysing the alternatives they imply are so inferior.

10. ♘b1–d2 ♕e4–g6
11. f2–f4?!

The rest of the notes to this game will be comparatively brief. There is a very simple reason for this: I do not have a clue what is happening.

11 Bh5 may be better. I was naïvely expecting the stereotyped 11...Nc6 here, but even after 12 f5 Nf6 13 Ne4 Qe5 it is not clear to me what is going on.

11. ... ♘e7–d5
12. ♗e3–f2

Avoiding the diabolical trap 12 f5 Qxg2+! after 22 panic-filled minutes of thought.

12. ... ♘d5×f4

After 27 minutes cogitation, so presumably he wasn't too sure of himself either. 12...Nc6 13 Bh5 Qd3 14 Re1+ Nce7 15 Qb3 offers White compensation.

13 ♗g3 ♘fd3 14 ♘2b3 ♗b6 15 ♗×d3 ♘×d3 16 ♕e2+ ♔d8 17 ♖f3 ♘c5 18 ♖af1

Trebling on the e-file seems better.

18...f6 19 ♔h1 ♘×b3 20 ♘×b3 d6 21 ♕d2 ♗d7 22 c4 ♗c6 23 ♖c3 ♔e7 24 c5 dc 25 ♘×c5 ♗×c5 26 ♖×c5 ♖ad8 27 ♕f2 ♔d7

Black should play ...Rhe8 and then transfer his king to the kingside, where it will be reasonably safe. But both sides were very short of time here.

28 b4 b6 29 ♖c2 1–0

White had the serious threat of 30 Rfc1 △ b5, smashing the c-file open. In searching for a defence, Black overstepped the time limit with 8 moves still to make.

I do hope that you enjoyed playing through these games at least as much as I enjoyed tapping them into the computer. Have fun, and may all your **Freddie**'s proliferate.

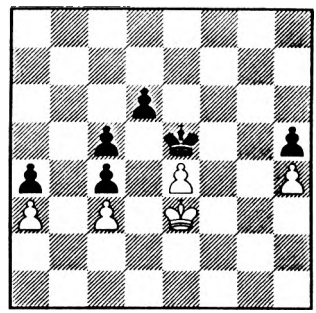
Steve

Vice–Pres Queens Charlie Thrice

by Phil Best

This is a game taken from the fifth round of the Bolton Easter Congress, Major section (U165), 17th - 19th April 1992. I was placed on 2.5 / 4 with one win and three draws, but with large numbers of draws among the competition I was not yet out of it.

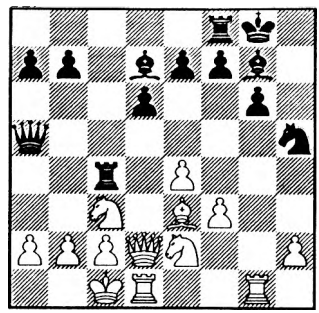
□ **J.Hopkins** (135)
■ **P.Best** (136)
Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5 2 ♘c3 d6 3 f4 ♘c6
I hate the f4 sicilian.
4 ♘f3 ♘f6 5 ♗c4 a6 6 a3 b5 7 ♗a2 ♗b7 8 d3 e6 9 f5 ef 10 O–O
Mr Hopkins obviously decided that it was time for a sacrifice. Well, I'm game if he is...
10...fe 11 ♘g5 ♘e5 12 ♘c×e4 ♗×e4 13 ♘×e4 ♘×e4 14 d×e4 ♗e7 ?!
I think that I should have played c4, and trapped the bishop in, even if only temporarily. That way I would have had time for some development before the attack came.
15 ♗d5 ♖b8 16 ♕h5 O–O
There's nothing quite like castling into it!
17 ♗d2
A bit passive - I think he was intending to bring it round to c3
17...♕d7 18 h3 ♗f6 19 ♗g5 ?!
I wondered about 19 Rxf6 gxf6 20 Rf1 going for the quick attack. The pawn on f6 would drop as well, and I would be forced to play moves like Ng6 in defence, and then try to get some play with a queenside counter, such as b4. I'm not sure whether this is better for white, but it does give good attacking chances.
19...♗×g5 20 ♕×g5 ♘g6 21 ♕h5 ♕e7 22 g3 ♕e5 23 ♕g4 ♕×b2
Pawn-grabbing can be dangerous as I was to find out!
24 ♕d7 ♖bd8 25 ♗×f7+ ♔h8 26 ♕e6 ♕e5 27 ♕×e5 ♘×e5 28 ♗d5 g6 29 ♖×f8+ ♖×f8 30 ♖f1 ♖×f1 31 ♔×f1
Now comes the interesting bit. Black has a extra pawn, and white has three isolated pawns, so it should be fairly simple. However, I thought I could be a bit clever and try the following move, forcing the bishop and knight off. For some reason, I thought the resulting position was won, but it turned out to be rather more complicated.
31...♘c4? 32 ♗×c4 b×c4 33 ♔e2 ♔g7 34 ♔f3 ♔f6 35 ♔f4 h6 36 h4 a5 37 c3 a4 38 g4 ♔e6 39 ♔e3 ♔e5 40 ♔f3 h5 41 gh gh 42 ♔e3
The timing is all wrong, and the position looks completely drawn *(37...c3 would have prevented White closing the position, and should win -Ed)*.However, I thought that I would try a little trick....



42...♔f6! 43 ♔f4?! ♔e6 44 ♔g5?! ♔e5 45 ♔×h5 ♔×e4 46 ♔g6 d5 47 h5 d4
Now if 48 cd c3 49 h6 c2 50 h7 c1=Q 51 h8=Q Qg1+ 52 Kf7 Qxd4 and black has good winning chances.
48 h6 dc
TRIPLED CHARLIES!
49 h7 c2 50 h8=♕ c1=♕ 51 ♕e8+ ♔d3 52 ♕×a4 ♕g1+ 53 ♔f6 c3 54 ♕b5+ ♔d2 55 ♕a5 ♕e3 56 a4 ♔d1 57 ♕b5 c2 58 ♕f1+ ♔d2 59 ♕g2+ ♔c3 60 a5 c1=♕
The second Charlie makes it home.
61 a6 ♕f4+ 62 ♔e6 ♕ce3+ 63 ♔d7 ♕d2+ 64 ♕×d2 ♕×d2+ 65 ♔c7 ♕a2 66 ♔b7 c4 67 a7 ♔d3 68 a8=♕ ♕×a8 69 ♔×a8 c3 0–1
The third Charlie didn't quite make it, (although it would have done) so in that respect the title was a little misleading. Mind you, this is not as misleading as the title of my last dragon article, whisch was amended to its final form by a certain Mr Steve Rix, without my consent!

Anyway, I went on to win my last round game, to finish on 4.5/6, which shared 2nd place with five others. Just as an indication of how I feel white should play against the Sicilian, I include my 2nd round game from the same tournament:

□ **P.Best** (136)
■ **B.Simister**
Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 ♘×d4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 g6 6 ♗e3 ♗g7 7 f3 ♘c6 8 ♕d2 ♗d7 9 ♗c4 O–O 10 g4 ♖c8 11 ♗b3 ♘e5 12 O–O–O h5? 13 gh ♘×h5 14 ♖hg1 ♘c4 15 ♗×c4 ♖×c4 16 ♘de2 ♕a5
(diagram) **17 ♖g5! ♕a6 18 ♖×h5! gh 19 ♖g1 f5 20 ♗h6 ♖f7 21 ♕g5**
I think that this should be enough ammunition to see off even the most spirited of defences!
21...♖×c3 22 ♘×c3 fe 23 ♗×g7 ♕f1+??
But what better could he do?
24 ♖×f1 ♖×g7 25 ♕d5+ 1–0



Lad Bamse være i fred
(Leave Teddy–Bear alone)

by Thomas Vils Pedersen

Here was I thinking that for the next three years I not only had to do without Danish rye bread, but also without chess games annotated in Danish (both delicacies); and then it turns out that 'The' *Dragon* buzzes with Danish words. Why Graham is writing them I don't know, as it can't be much fun being obscene when no one understans your obscenities. He couldn't have known that I would be here to tell you, that 'vatpik' (or simply VP as we say in Copenhagen - Graham lives in the middle of nowhere) *(or 'The middle of Denmark', as we say in England -Ed.)* directly translated means 'cottonwool-dick'. My guess is that you aren't really surprised by this and basically it's rather innocent.

What really upset me about one of his articles was that he was insulting Bamse. Bamse is the leading character in a children's programme, and the most lovely, inventive and entertaining Teddy-Bear you could think of, loved by children of all ages (including myself). The title 'Bamse ud af Kylling!', ('Teddy-Bear out of Chicken' - see last issue of Dragon) strongly suggests that Bamse has a sexual relationship with his good friend Kylling, which is absolute nonsense. We in the 'National Organisation for Protection of Bamse's Reputation' have included Graham in our list of deviants and we will take whatever steps prove necessary to silence him. †

Now chess articles without any chess are usually quite boring, so I'll stop moralising and offer you a game instead.

In the last round of the College League we (ie Churchill, featuring our handsome editors) *(sic)* played Peterhouse. Neither side had much to play for, so we wrote and told them to dress formally and bring-a-bottle. For some reason they didn't get the message, *(Well that's one interpretation -Ed.)* and turned up sadly empty-handed. However, my opponent quickly adapted and proved willing to share my bottle of Bairrada '87 red wine *(Well, that's Amit for you, considerate to a tee -Ed.)*, with the following result.

('The Bairrada '87 - game')

□ **Amit Gupta, Peterhouse**
■ **Thomas Vils Pedersen, Churchill**
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 ♘×d4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 g6

The whole setting of the match demanded action, and as Bamse says: 'The Dragon is good fun'.

6 ♗c4 ♗g7 7 f3 0–0 8 ♗e3 ♘c6 9 ♕d2 ♗d7 10 0–0–0 ♖c8 11 ♗e2 ?!

The normal move here is 11 Bb3. I should probably have taken advantage of the passive position of the bishop and have played 11...Nxd4 12 Bxd4 Be6, but the wine had made me drowsy, so I yawned and stuck to standard manœuvres:

11 ...♘e5 12 g4 ♘c4 13 ♗×c4 ♖×c4 14 h4

Returning to the beaten track.

14 ...h5 15 ♘f5?!!

Probably unsound (as far as I know the normal moves are 15 gh and 15 e5; although the idea is well-known in the Dragon. Amit looked foolishly happy at this time, so I decided that he was half-pissed and just wanted to have fun – no matter the consequences. Unfortunately this meant that I didn't take the sacrifice seriously (hence the exclamation marks), so I played carelessly, with a simple but bad plan.

15 ...g×f5 16 gf ♔h7 17 ♘d5 ♘×d5 18 ♕×d5 ♕c7

Hoping for 19 c3?? Rxc3+

19 ♖h2 ♖c8?

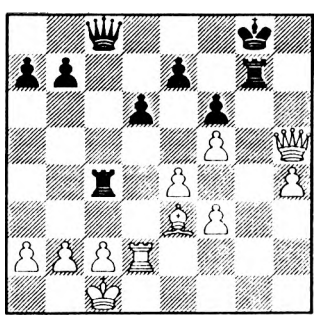
Still hoping, but leaving f7 undefended.

20 ♖dd2 f6 21 ♖hg2

Aah, now even I saw that 24 ...Rg1+ (in the game line) would be met by Bxg1(!), but it was too late to do anything about it.

21 ...♖g8 22 ♕f7 ♗e8 □ 23 ♖×g7+ ♖×g7 24 ♕×e8 ♕c8 25 ♕×h5+ ♔g8

This position is unclear, but probably at least ok for White. But as Bamse says: 'Never give up hope.'



26 c3? ♖×c3+ 27 b×c3 ♕×c3 28 ♔d1?

After 28 Rc2 Qe3+ 29 Kb2 I haven't found anything better for me than the perpetual: 29 ...Qb6+ 30 Ka3 Qa5+ 31 Kb3 Qb5+ 32 Ka3 etc.

28...♕×e3 29 ♕e8+ ♔h7 30 ♕h5+ ♔g8 31 ♕e8+ ♔h7

Time was running out.

32 ♕h5+ ♕h6 33 ♕×h6+

Maybe the queens should have been kept on the board, as the ensuing rook-ending is slightly better for me (though as we all know, rook-endings are always drawn). It was my first rook-ending for something like forty games, and I'm certainly not an expert on the subject, so I'll spare you my analysis and will just note that 38 ef is better *(eg 38 ...Ra2+ 39 Kb3 Rxd2 40 f7 ± but 38...ef can transpose to the game)*, and that the position after black's 46th move may be drawn although a Lucena position seems most likely.

33...♔×h6 34 a4 ♖g1+ 35 ♔c2 ♔h5 36 f4 ♔×h4 37 e5 ♖a1 38 ♔b3 ♔g4 39 ed ed 40 ♖×d6 ♔×f5 41 ♔b4 ♖f1 42 ♔b5 ♖×f4 43 ♖d7 a6+ 44 ♔a5 b6+ 45 ♔×a6 ♖×a4+ 46 ♔×b6 ♖e4 47 ♔c5 ♔f4 48 ♖d1 ♖e3 49 ♔d4 f5 50 ♖f1+ ♖f3 51 ♖g1 ♖f2 52 ♔d3 ♔f3 53 ♖e1 f4 54 ♖g1 ♖a2 55 ♖f1+ ♔g3 56 ♔e4 ♖a4+ 57 ♔d3 f3 58 ♔e3 ♖a3+ 59 ♔d2 ♔g2 60 ♖d1 f2 61 ♖e1 f×e1=♕+ 0–1

† The editors would like to point out that the views expressed in this article are not neccesarily those of the editors, and that we can under no circumstances condone or promote illegality. An anonymous response to the criticism directed at Mr. Burgess has been submitted, and we give it here in the interests of balance and impartiality:

'We in Defenders Of Nice Graham's Eccentric wRiting Style (D.O.N.G.E.R.S.) wish to point out that "Bamse ud af Kylling" was a graffito in a lavatory, no less, which Graham only found amusing because it appeared immediately below a list of "Americans out of Vietnam", "Russians out of Afghanistan", etc. The implication that GKB thinks Bamse is a bit of a pervert is libellous, and legal action is pending...'

Local Authority Time Budget Leads To Education Cuts In Endgame Technique

by David Boyle

So sayeth the tabloid press, but why? Are our youngsters missing out because of cuts preventing more than 24 hours in any given day? Is the lack of endgame technique due to time restrictions or is this a fundamental flaw in the structure of our society? Do people think that 'everything will turn out alright' and drift aimlessly through life? Nobody wants to think about being old; does this affect our approach to chess? Does anybody really care?

And so, after a number of silly questions, we arrive at the Cambridge v Essex County Match of last term.

□ **D.S.Boyle** (155, Cambridge)
■ **C.R.Ramage** (169, Essex)
Latvian Gambit

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 f5

The Latvian, what a body blow! Most people never come across this in their life so you can't blame them for not learning the 3 Bc4 refutation. I play a different line which supposedly gives White more control over the position. That's as likely as the editors playing Varsity chess next year...

3 ♘×e5 ♕f6

3...Nc6 is met by 4 Nxc6 dxc6 5 Nc3 Qe7 6 Bc4 fe *(6...Nf6 7 d3 fe 8 de Nxe4 9 O-O* ±*)* 7 Bxg8 Rxg8 8 O-O Bf5 9 Re1 O-O-O 10 Nxe4 Bxe4 11 Qg4+ ±

4 d4 d6 5 ♘c4 fe 6 ♗e2

6 Ne3 is also good. This is Bronstein's recommendation from 200 Open Games, a damn fine book really, even if there are a few fillers in there. Indeed, where would Dragon be without a few fillers? A lot shorter for one thing...

6...d5 7 ♘e3 ♗e6!?

Normal according to my book is 7...Qf7 8 c4 c6 9 Nc3 Nf6 10 Qa4 Nbd7 11 cd ± Enklaar–Hölzl, 1979, so you can't blame Black for trying to improve his play.

8 O–O?!

Absolute tash (sic) really. In a position like this, the initiative is crucial and so 8 c4! is crying out to be played. 8...dc 9 d5 suitably screws up Black's development. If I knew why I didn't play 8 c4 I'd tell you.

8...♘c6 9 c3 O–O–O 10 f3 ef 11 ♗×f3(8) ♕h4(28) 12 g3 ♕e7

Black is ok here. It's difficult to find a plan for White, while ...g5 and ...h5 look to be on the cards.

13 b4(21)

I never could resist attacking the king...

13...♘f6 14 ♘g4(30)

Panic Attack! I have to admit that I went brainstorming here...maybe I can outplay him in an ending?! Maybe Cyril Smith will win the pole vault at the Barcelona Olympics...

14...♘×g4 15 ♗×g4 ♗×g4 16 ♕×g4+ ♕d7 17 ♕×d7 ♖×d7

'Draw?'-C.R.Ramage. Not so long ago I would have accepted but my 100% score with White for the county was at stake. And besides, I'm stubborn...

18 ♘d2 ♗d6

White probably has an advantage here but if you haven't got a magnifying glass you won't see it. Anyway it disappears like ice in the sun and the status quo is resumed.

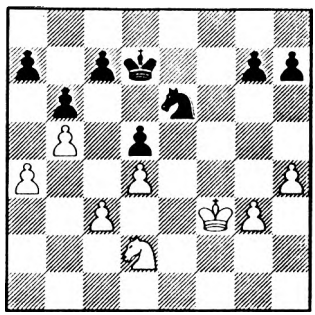
19 ♘b3 ♖e8 20 b5 ♘d8 21 ♗d2 ♖e2 22 ♖ael ♖de7 23 a4 ♖×e1 24 ♖×e1 ♖×e1+ 25 ♗×e1 ♘e6

Clearly Black has no idea about this position otherwise he'd have wanted to play ...Nf7–g5/d6–e4.

26 ♗d2 ♗e7 27 ♔f2 ♗g5 28 ♔f3 b6

'Draw?' – C.R.Ramage. If he keeps the bishops on then Black may even be a little better but I felt he would swap off if given the chance. If all the pieces come off then White has a small edge because while Black gets his queen-side pawns moving White can penetrate on the king-side. *(And should Black unaccountably decide to resign, White wins. - Ed.)*

29 h4 ♗×d2?! 30 ♘×d2 ♔d7



30...h5 is interesting but 31 g4 g6 32 Nf1 Kd7 33 gh gh 34 Ng3 Ng7 35 Kf4 gives White a clear advantage. So would kicking Black's head in but there are rules against that sort of thing...

31 ♔g4 g6 32 ♘f3 c5 33 bc+ ♔×c6 34 ♘e5+

Strong Knight!

34...♔d6 35 h5 gh+ 36 ♔×h5 ♘g7+ 37 ♔g5

Not 37 Kh6 Nf5+ where Black is better. *(But Black is better anyway (look at the grades). -Ed.)*

37...a6

Too slow, now Gordon gets going. The police warn that Gordon should not under any circumstances be approached by the public, as he may be dangerous. After all, his aim in life is a sex change...

38 g4 b5 39 ab ab 40 ♔h6(85) ♘e6(96)

The time control. With an hour left to play, 10 moves in 30 minutes would leave him 6 minutes short of the adjudication time, so he has to play on. I was heartbroken...

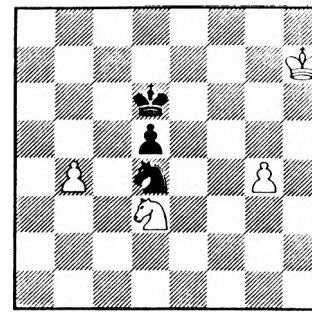
41 ♔×h7

You've been 'Ulybinned'

41...b4 42 cb ♘×d4

I hope I've got this right...

43 ♘d3!



43 Nf7+ allows Kc6!=

43...♘e6 44 ♔h6 d4 45 g5 ♔d5

If Black plays 45...Nxg5 46 Kxg5 Kd5 47 Nb2! Kc6 48 Kf4 Kb5 49 Nd3 Kc4 50 Ke4 +- , or just 47 Kf5 +-

46 ♘b2!

46 g6!? Kc4 47 Nf4 transposes but allows 46...Ke4 47 Nc5+ Nxc5 48 bxc5 which I think is technically won but is more difficult.46 Nb2! avoids all this by forcing ...Kc4 as ...Ke4 allows the b-pawn to run.

46...♔c6 47 g6 ♔b5 48 ♘d3 ♔c4

'Draw?' - C.R.R.

49 ♘f4 ♔×b4

49...Nxf4 50 g7 +-

50 ♘×e6 d3 51 ♘f4 d2 52 ♘d3+ ♔c3 53 ♘f2 1–0

In commiseration one of my opponent's team-mates uttered the memorable comment, 'Horrible things those knight and pawn endings. You always lose them the first time you play them.' What does he want me to do? Let him look at it and replay the ending again when he's got it sorted?

So is the national time shortage responsible for lack of endgame knowledge or is something more sinister at work? Adjudications creep in through the back door and Koopäesque endgame technique suffers. Maybe if we had eleven time zones like the USSR used to have, we'd have time on our hands.

Those were the days . . .
Or, 'Monk Writes Off Morris Minor'

by Our Conscience

I remember a time when the Berlin wall was not a souvenir, Kuwait was just a letter and a number and chess was simple.

In April 1987 chess was played not to win but for the fun of taking part. I entered the Lloyd's Bank England U–14 for the experience of playing in a top junior tournament, little did I know...

In round 4 I was on 2½/3 which surprised me somewhat. I was forced to play someone good.

□ **J.Monk**
■ **M.Morris (137)**
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 ♘×d4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6

This is an opening known in the trade as the 'Sicilian Defence'.

6 ♗e2 e5 7 ♘b3

A move favoured by Karpov (even he was good in 1987), I was told.

7...♗e7 8 O–O ♗e6 9 ♗e3 a5

I'm sorry, what's the point of this?

10 f3 d5

Removing the backward d-pawn.

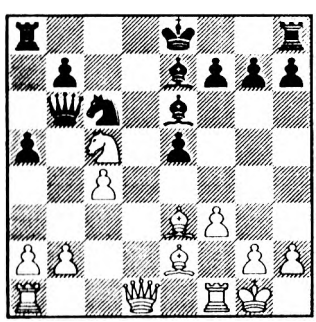
11 ed ♘×d5 12 ♘×d5 ♗×d5

Exchange a few bits to reach a drawn ending, I thought.

13 c4 ♗e6 14 ♘c5

After black's reply, I marked this on my scoresheet as ??

14...♕b6



How could I lose in only 14 moves, a piece is about to be dropped? I realised I'd lost and joked about it with my opponent. Then I saw...

15 ♕b3 ♗×c5 16 ♕×b6 ♗×b6 17 ♗×b6

Is there a name for this defending tactic, or is that obvious?

17...O–O 18 b3

I now have the bishop pair. How this is a tangible advantage I still don't know. Perhaps I should read 'My System' again.

18...a4 19 ♔f2

Getting a centralised king.

19...♘d4 20 ♗×d4

Giving up the bishop pair in order to get a bad bishop?

20...e×d4 21 ♖fd1 ♖fd8 22 ♗d3 b5

I suppose this is meant to weaken my queenside pawns.

23 cb ab 24 ab ♗×b3 25 ♖×a8 ♖×a8

Here Black offers a draw, but since I have an outside passed pawn, a more active king, and back-rank mating threats, I come to the conclusion that I should decline.

26 ♖b1 ♖a2+ 27 ♔g3 ♗c2 28 ♗×c2 ♖×c2 29 b6 ♖c8 30 b7 ♖b8 31 ♖c1

Spotting a tic–tac.

31...♖f8 32 ♖c8 d3 33 ♖×f8+ ♔×f8

OK so not the best, but it wins.

34 b8=♕+ ♔e7 35 ♕b1 d2 36 ♕d3 d1=♕ 1–0

Round 5 and I was elevated to board 3 against an even stronger player:

□ **N.Bathie (146)**
■ **J.Monk**

1 e4 e5 2 f4 ef 3 ♘f3 ♗e7

The Cunningham Variation of the King's Gambit Accepted.

4 ♗c4 ♗h4+ 5 ♔f1 d5 6 ♗×d5 ♘f6 7 ♘c3 ♘×d5 8 ♘×d5 f5

At this point each player had used only 2 minutes. This is still opening theory.

9 ♘×h4 ♕×h4 10 ♘×c7+ ♔d8 11 ♘×a8 fe

I wandered away from the board to go to the little boys' room, checking briefly to see whether Brian was about I walked in. While relieving myself I talked to a friend about our respective games, as one does.

'Why have you blundered a rook?' he enquired.

'No, no' I replied, 'you've got it wrong'.

'You're opponent is doing to you what I'm doing to this urinal,' he retorted.

'Not at all, this is opening theory.'

'Bollocks', he said.

I dashed back to my game as Brian walked in (he's got a weak bladder).

12 ♕e1 ♕h5 13 ♕×e4 ♖e8 14 ♕d3+

The first step out of the 'book'. 14 Qf3 is better.

14...♗d7 15 ♔f2 ♕h4+

With an attack.

16 g3 fg+ 17 ♕×g3 ♕f6+ 18 ♔g1 ♕d4+

19 ♔f1 ♖f8+ 20 ♔g2 ♗c6+ 21 ♔h3 ♖f3

It's not a check, but it wins.

22 ♖f1 ♖×g3+ 23 h×g3 ♕d5

With threats.

24 ♖f4 ♕h1+ 25 ♔g4 ♗d7+ 26 ♖f5 ♕e4+ 0–1

Isn't it amazing what a little opening theory can do? What a theory hacker I was. Zero chess skill, but I could still memorise part of a book.

For the record, I drew my last round game leaving me with 5/6 and tied for 1st place with three others. Those were the days ...

Det er klamt .... at blive ramt!

by Graham Burgess

□ **G. Burgess (Sydøstfyn)**
■ **Bo G. Christensen (Brøndby)**
Århus ch-DK (Kandidatklasse) 1992
Semi-Tarrasch

1 d4

The game started at 9 a.m., so don't expect much. Also it was the last round and both players had good reason to be pissed off with their play so far in the tournament.

1...d5

Oh dear. I always lose against this one.

2 ♘f3 ♘f6 3 c4 e6 4 ♘c3 c5 5 cd ♘×d5

The Semi-Tarrasch isn't too popular these days. In fact, apart from one quickplay game, I can't remember having faced it in a serious competition. Incidentally, note 5...ed?! 6 Bg5! ±

6 e4 ♘×c3 7 b×c3 ♗e7

Normal is 7...cd 8 cd and then 8...Bb4+ or 8...Nc6 9 Bc4 b5. The text destroys my hopes of following Polugaevsky-Tal up to and including 25 e6!! ±. White's plan in this opening is to develop naturally and actively (Reinfeldian, almost), then be ready to sacrifice a centre pawn (eg d5 ed; e5) to open lines for a kingside hack; look up the afore-mentioned ædelsten for a good example.

8 ♗c4 ♕a5 9 ♗d2

Bamse says '112'

9...O–O 10 O–O b5

My opponent explained afterwards that he'd judged me as a solid positional player from my previous games in the tournament (understandable - I hadn't demonstrated any tactical acumen) and so wanted to complicate.

11 ♗d3 ♖d8 12 ♕e2 c4 13 ♗c2 ♘d7 14 ♖fb1

...Ba6 possibilities were **annoying** me. Now 15 a4 is a trussel, so Black has little choice.

14...♗a3 15 e5

Den er vokset! Why might these words cause a lady with store babser to plutter Jolly Cola over a computer screen? Answers on a postcard, preferably with a pretty picture on it.

15...♘f8

Brøndby is near Copenhagen and is known mainly for its football team.

16 ♗e4 ♖b8 17 ♗g5 ♖d7 18 ♕e3

A free lobotomy to anyone who would have grabbed the exchange.

18...♗b7 19 ♘d2 ♗d5

I must confess to having a mental block concerning such moves. Does Yurtaev? Or have they changed his name, too?

20 ♕g3

Glek would doubtless give a list of files and diagonals here, and probably mention xc4. Callanites will also note 20...h6 21 Bxh6!! ('Like a Plan 2 without the 2'– Vujatović)

20...♖(d)b7 21 h4

To give the king some room. Nej -til EF-Unionen!

21...♔h8

I don't like this move. Black should get on with it, viz 21...b4. Queenside expansion is the only way to save the Black king, just as

White's queenside faces extinction if the kingside attack doesn't bring forth 'a consummation devoutly to be wished' (Salov).

22 h5 b4 23 h6

To answer Natasha's question from 1987: this is how you 'do' an h-pawn. A bit of analysis here: 23 Bf6 gxf6 24 ef Ng6 25 hxg6 fg and White runs out of Bamseline, for which Vienetta Cappuccino just isn't an adequate substitute.

23...♘g6 24 hg+ ♔g8

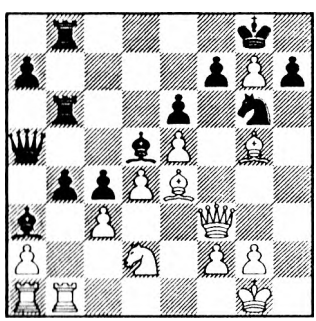
Frank Belknap Long! With hindsight, I look at this position as though I were thinking "This is the exact opposite of the correct decision. Black made just one mistake. There is no limit to the gullibility of the computer, but could the stars of the French comic theatre find anything totally convincing after 24...Kxg7 ?'

25 ♕f3!

Instead 25 Bxd5 would be met by 25...Qxd5. The text (a rather silly word, but tremendously useful when annotating chessgames) threatens 26 Nxc4.

25...♖b6 *(Diagram)*

Black clears the diagonal and is now ready to play 26...bc, but the tempo is all White needs. For reasons not much to do with chess, however, I was down to just a few minutes.



26 ♗×d5 e×d5

Now 26...Qxd5 27 Ne4 is 'strong knight' and 'extra king'.

27 ♘f1!

△ Nh6+, and there's not much Black can do about it. One is a fabric softener and the other's ice-cream. 'YGRTHNBrttgeahuir@ to the queenside!

27...bc 28 ♖×b6 ♕×b6 29 ♘e3

Horse-shoe Event Horizon?! Note that the c-pawn won't distract Neddy: 29...c2 30 Ng4 Qb1+ 31 Kh2, and 29...Rb7 could be met by taking lots of pawns before playing for mate again.

29...♕×d4 30 ♘g4 ♔×g7

White was threatening mate in three, while 30...Nxe5 allows 31 Nh6+ Kxg7 32 Qf6+ Kf8 33 Qh8#, and the Yurtaevian 30...Qxg4 31 Qxg4 c2 32 Bh6! is inadequate. After the text move, 31 Qf6+ Kf8 32 Nh6 would have forced mate immediately (32...Rb7 33 Qd8+ Kg7 34 Qg8#), but for obvious reasons I was in one-minute mode and hadn't expected his last move. The remaining moves are a bit of a horror story.

31 ♗h6+? ♔g8 32 ♘f6+ ♔h8 33 ♘d7 ♕h4 34 ♘×b8 ♕×h6?

34...Bb2!

35 ♕×c3 ♗c5 36 ♘d7 ♘f4 37 ♕f3 ♗d4 38 ♖b1 ♕g5 39 ♖b8+ ♔g7 40 ♘f6? ♕×e5?

40...Nh3+!

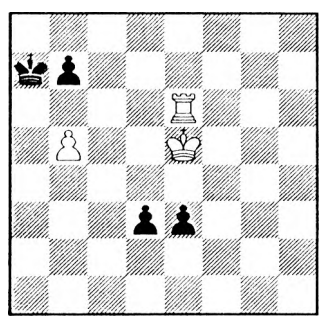
41 ♕×f4 ♕e1+?

41...Qxf4 42 Nh5+ Kh6 43 Nxf4 Be5 44 Rd8 Bxf4 45 Rxd5 c3 46 Rc5 Bd2 47 Kf1 is a won ending for White.

42 ♔h2 ♗e5 43 ♘h5+ 1–0

Black's flag fell and after we reconstructed the last fifteen moves, he resigned. It is true that 43 Rg8 would have made the game suitable for the chapter 'Checkmate' in Nesis' 'Tactics in the Semi-Tarrasch.' As it is, I have to hope for a chapter 'Discovered Check' or 'Capturing all your opponent's pieces'.

Filler



White to play and win. (Richter–Doronet, Berlin, 1949)

(Solution on page 33)

The Complete Negation of the Totality of What Is

by John Wilson

□ **A.Spice (175)**
■ **J.Wilson**
Sutton 1992
Sveshie!

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 ♘f6 3 d4
No lily-livered scoundrel, this one
3...cd 4 ♘×d4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 e5
Kramnik! And Nunn, apparently.
6 ♘db5 d6 7 ♗g5 a6 8 ♗×f6 gf 9 ♘a3
Not the most accurate move-order, as Black has the opportunity to play 9...f5 instead of going back into the main lines. Predictably, I hadn't got round to learning what comes afterwards, so:
9...b5 10 ♘d5 ♗g7
10...f5 is probably still legal, but no points anyway, as you don't get to feel nearly as smugly self-satisfied at your up-to-date opening repertoire.
11 c3 f5 12 ef ♗×f5 13 ♘c2 ♘e7 14 ♘ce3 ♗e6 15 ♗e2
Not a particulaly scintillating choice of square for the bishop, who expected to obtain a nice view from g2 after 15 g3
15...♘×d5 16 ♘×d5 O-O 17 O-O ♖b8 18 ♕d2 ♕d7 TN
Sveshnikov gives 18...a5 19 Rfd1 f5 20 a4 ba 21 Rxa4 Kh8 22 b4, as in Foistel- Fatalibekova, Tbilisi 1976. I wanted to discourage a4, but my move allows his queen to g5.
19 ♖fd1 a5 20 ♕g5 f5 21 ♖d3
'Gosh!' — Paul Motwani
21...♔h8
I couldn't tell for sure whether my position was highly resilient and seething with imminent counterplay, or whether it was basically a bit ropey. I consoled myself with the thought that it was more fun than the Caro-Kann.
22 ♖ad1 e4 23 ♖3d2
23 Rh3 f4 △ 24...Rf5 was my one tactic.
23...♗e5 24 ♘f4 ♖g8?
With hindsight, I decided I'd have been better off without this move.
25 ♕h6 ♗×a2 26 ♖a1
26 Rxd6 Bxd6 27 Rxd6 Qf7 28 Bh5 Qf8 29 Ng6+ Rxg6 30 Rxg6 Qxh6 31 Rxh6 b4, and a great future is in prospect for Albert.
26...♗c4! 27 ♗×c4
27 Rxa5 gives Black the initiative, for example 27...Bxe2 28 Rxe2 Rg4 29 Nd5 Qd8 △...Rh4.
27...bc 28 ♖×a5 ♗×c3!
The point! But with White's queen still on g5, the fork would have won straight away, as Rxd6 would not be possible.
29 ♖×d6 ♕×d6!!
This move is for Gary Callan, and anyone who has ever associated my name with the phrase 'boring positional player'. Things get terribly confusing after 29...Rxb2 (my original intention) although I think one of White's attempts to force a win misses by a whole point: 30 Ng6+ Rxg6 31 Qf8+ Rg8 32 Qxg8+ Kxg8 33 Ra8+ Qe8 34 Rxe8+ Kf7 35 Red8 Bf6 36 Red7+ Ke8! and things look good for Charlie. The real problem is the simple 30 g3, when there is no satisfactory defence to 31 Ng6+, e.g. 30...Qf7 31 Ng6+ Rxg6 32 Ra8+ Rg8 33 Rdd8 (△ 34 Qg5! if necessary and then if 34...Bg7 35 Qxf5!!)
30 ♕×d6 ♖bd8 31 ♕d5
The best move.
31...♖×d5 32 ♖×d5 ♗×b2 33 ♖×f5?
33 Rc5 is an absolute necessity, although with 33...Rd8 △ 34...c3 Black keeps his pawn.
33...♖c8 34 ♘e2 c3 35 ♘×c3 ♗×c3
And as always seems to happen when I have a few tactics in a game, the result is a boring ending.
36 ♔f1 ♗g7 37 ♔e2 ♗h6 38 ♖e5 ♖c2+ 39 ♔f1 ♖c1+ 40 ♔e2 ♖c2+ 41 ♔f1 ♖c4 42 ♔e2 ♔g7 43 ♖e6 ♗g5 44 ♖a6 ♖c2+ 45 ♔f1 ♗e7!
The winning plan dawns on me.
46 ♖a4 ♗c5 47 ♖×e4 ♖×f2+ 48 ♔e1 ♖×g2
As long as I remember not to swap rooks, this should be pretty simple.
49 h3 ♖h2 50 ♖c4 ♗b6 51 ♖g4+ ♔f6 52 h4 ♔f5 53 ♖a4 ♗e3 54 ♔f1 h6 55 h5 ♗f4 56 ♖a5+ ♗e5 57 ♖a4 ♖×h5
Now that White's last pawn has been rounded up, his king must go into the corner to stop the pawn queening, but then it is so badly placed that he would lose the R+B vs R ending even without the h-pawn.
58 ♔g2 ♖h2+ 59 ♔g1 ♖d2 60 ♔h1 ♗f4 61 ♖a1 ♔g4 62 ♖g1+ ♗g3 63 ♖g2 ♖d1+ 64 ♖g1 ♖d5 65 ♖g2?
Hoping for 65...Kh3? 66 Rh2+ Bxh2?? stalemate.
65...♔f3! 66 ♖g1 ♖h5# **0-1**

Solution to problem on page 32
1 ♔d6 d2 2 ♔c7 d1=♕ 3 ♖a6+ ♗×a6 4 b6+ ♔a8 5 b7+ ♔a7 6 b8=♕ #

'The Lord Giveth And The Lord Taketh Away'

by Phil Fallon

If you weren't fortunate enough to be selected for last season's Varsity match (anyone who remembers it wasn't there!) you may have been considered worthy of a place in the Dragon's vs Unicorns (2nd team) match.

Having to travel to Oxford (via London) on British Rail obviously sapped our team's fighting spirit as we crashed to a 10.5-5.5 defeat despite the heroic efforts of our top four boards (3/4, 3.5/4 but for the editor's incompetence!). The journey was worth it though, because not only did I get to play a blindfold game against ex-president Captain James T.Totty (it was abandoned when it was discovered Jim was playing a different game to me! *(Russian Roulette? - Ed)*, but I also got my revenge against Ed Newman for last year's Fresher's match, and was awarded the Best Game prize for it.

This was a rather attractive engraved glass, and was presented to me by the aforesaid Totty at a committee meeting in his room. Once everyone had seen it, I placed it on the floor whereupon Jim dropped a large jar of mustard on it and smashed my lovely trophy. Cheers Jim – you smasher!

Still, they can't take my memories away, and I still have the game to admire if not the trophy ...

□ **P.Fallon** (172 - but not for long!)
■ **E.Newman** (186)
Brd 2, Dragons Match, 1992
French Tarrasch

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘d2 ♘f6 4 ♗d3

Black's third move is obviously an attempt to provoke White into advancing his e-pawn and closing the centre (unlike 3...c5 which leads to a more open game after 4 ed). After 4 e5 Nfd7, White's static pawn chain provides an excellent target for Black's counterplay via c5 and Nc6, or f6. It's still good for White, but it could be considered playing into your opponent's hands. After all, if they're expecting a closed centre, why not keep it open and make them think for themself?

4...c5

4...ed is the other alternative, transposing into the Rubinstein Variation (3...ed), in which White has slightly more space, faster development, and a useful outpost at e5. Black meanwhile has to develop his queen's bishop (hemmed in by e6) and avoid being hacked off the board.

5 ed!?

5 e5 transposes into the main line, whereas 5 dc allows 5...de! 6 Nxe4 Nxe4 7 Bxe4 Qxd1+ and 8...Bxc5 =. 5...Bxc5 6 Qe2 leads to a position resembling the Colle System in the Queen's Gambit, in which White has reasonable attacking chances. The move played alows black several good replies according to taste. Both 5...Nxd5 and 5...cd are interesting, whilst the move played (Qxd5) and ...ed both lead back to main line variations of 3...c5, which is thankfully not likely to be known by Black (as he plays 3...Nf6)

5...♕×d5 6 ♘gf3 cd 7 ♗c4 ♕a5?

If the reader cares to check his copy of B/MCO, or failing that Jakubovics-Remlinger Gausdal 92 *(Dragon Mar92)*, they will notice that White is actually a tempo down on a main-line, Black having played Nf6 for free, so my experiment could be deemed unsuccessful. When I first thought of playing this line though, I decided it was worth gambling on my opponent not knowing how to handle the position. This move effectively hands back the tempo, as the Queen will have to move again after Nb3.

8 O–O ♘c6 9 ♘b3 ♕b4

The attack on the bishop is the only way to stop White regaining the pawn immediately; I replied with 10 Qe2 rather than 10 Qd3 because I wanted to maintain a hold on e5 to stop Black freeing his Queen's-bishop.

10 ♕e2 ♗c5 11 ♖d1 O–O 12 ♘f×d4 ♘×d4 13 ♘×d4 ♖d8

After the game Mr. Newman singled out this move as the root of his subsequent troubles and suggested either ...Bd7 or ...h6 as improvements, but 13...Bd7 14 c3 Qb6 15 Bg5 Nd5 16 Bxd5 ed 17 Be7! looks good for White. Having given Black an isolated queen pawn it's a good idea to exchange his active dark-squared bishop, and obtain a good knight vs bad bishop.

13...h6 tries to prevent Bg5 △ Bxf6, but does weaken the king-side. 14 c3 Qb6 15 Bf4 Rd8 16 Be5 Nd7 (16...Nd5 17 Qg4; 16...Be7!?) 17 Bg3 and now if 17...Nf6 18 Bh4 anyway. My opponent seemed more concerned about the possibility of the aggressive (reckless!) 15 g4!?

14 c3 ♕b6 15 ♗g5 ♗×d4

15...Be7 16 Nf5!!

16 cd ♗d7

Snatching the d-pawn would be disastrous for Black as it merely opens the file for White; 16...Rxd4 17 Bxf6 gxf6 (17...Rxd1+ 18 Rxd1 Δ 19 Qg4+, Qh4) 18 Rxd4 Qxd4 19 Rd1 threatening both Rd8+ and Qg4+, Qh4.

17 ♗×f6 g×f6 18 ♕g4+ ♔h8 19 ♕h4 ♖g8!

One cannot help but admire Black's cool-headed defence. Faced with a shattered king-side and rather passive position inside 20 moves, most players would give up and wait to be finished off (I know I tend to!). Instead, rather than defend passively, Ed gives up the weak pawn and activates his pieces. This caused me great psychological difficulties - I was expecting Black's position to collapse and so spent a lot of time searching for the killer blow, without finding anything devastating:

20 ♕×f6+ ♖g7 21 d5 ♔g8 22 ♖d3

22 de Bxe6 23 Bxe6 fxe6! (23...Qxe6 24 Rd8+ ±±) and Black threatens ...Rf8 and ...Qxf2.

22...♖g6 23 ♕d4

White gives up all hope of a quick win and prepares to enter the endgame a pawn up, with better pawn structure; White's game must win itself, right? All I've got to do is trundle my kingside pawns up the board, swap the pieces off and promote the extra pawn - simple isn't it?

23...ed 24 ♗×d5 ♕×d4 25 ♖×d4 ♗c6 26 ♖ad1 ♖c8 27 g3 ♗×d5 28 ♖×d5 ♖c2 29 ♖1d2 ♖×d2 30 ♖×d2 ♖a6 31 b3 ♖e6

Well those of you who play through the next twenty moves will no doubt fail to be impressed. Was I right to avoid 32 Rd7? Rather than defend the b-pawn with 32...Rb6, Black can play 32...Re2, and after 33 a4 (33 a3 Ra2) play 33...b6. If White now grabs the a7 pawn Black plays 34...Rb2.

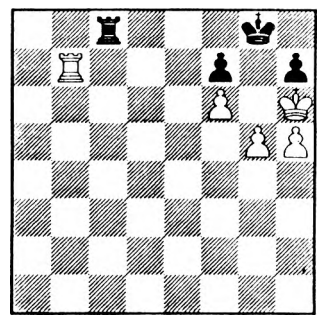
On move 34 White again had the option of playing Rd7, but although Black can't respond with 34...Re2, 34...Rc6 threatening Rc2+ avoids further material loss. Should I have played these lines anyway, even though it would simplify the queenside? If not, why did Black take so long to force matters on the queenside? If he had liquidated it sooner his rook would have been free to get behind my kingside as it advanced and hassle the king.

What is certain is that 36 g4 was premature, and that after 36...Rc7 37 Rd2 Rc3 Black would have slowed my progress considerably.

32 f3 ♔g7 33 ♔f2 ♔f6 34 f4 ♖e7 35 ♖d6+ ♔g7 36 g4 b6 37 ♔f3 ♖c7 38 ♖d2 ♖e7 39 h4 ♖c7 40 g5 a5 41 ♔g4 a4 42 ba

42 f5! ba? 43 f6+; or 42 f5 f6 43 Rd6 ab 44 ab fg 45 hg b5 46 Kh5 — Rix

42...♖c4 43 ♖b2 ♖×a4 44 ♖×b6 ♖×a2 45 f5 ♖a4+ 46 ♔h5 ♖a8 47 f6+ ♔g8 48 ♔h6 ♖c8 49 h5 ♖a8 50 ♖b7 ♖c8



This issue's competition — 'White to play and win'

Answers on a postcard to 'Well there is only one move' competition

1st Prize: An evening's endgame coaching with Koopa

2nd Prize: A day's .....

3rd Prize: D. Boyle's Cycling Proficiency Certificate

The judges reserve the right to include anyone who cheats and reads the rest of the game.

51 g6!! hg 52 hg ♖f8

After 52...fg I intended 53 Rg7+? Kf8 54 f7 Ke7? 55 Rg8! Rf8 56 Rxf8 Kxf8 57 Kxg6 ±±, however after 54...Rc1 Black draws. 53 Kxg6 is correct, then if 53...Kh8 54 Rh7+ Kg8 55 f7+ Kf8 56 Rh8+ ±±, 53...Kf8 54 Rh7!, or 53...Rd/a8 54 Rg7+ Kf/h8 55 Rh7!

53 ♖e7! ⊙

53 g7 Δ Rh8# doesn't work. *(Or is in any case slower - Ed)*

53...fg

53...Kh8 54 g7+; 53...R moves 54 Rxf7 ±±

54 ♖g7+ ♔h8 55 f7! 1–0

Mates in three

Book Review

by Steve Rix

The Complete Alekhine

by Graham Burgess

252 pages, softback, £14.95, Batsford

In thinking about what to say about this offering, I began to appreciate some of the problems facing an author of a chess openings book.

He could adopt the traditional "tree" approach, where each chapter divides up into branches, such as B1421(a). It is then easy for the reader to find a game: he turns to the appropriate chapter, follows play down to the first parting of the ways, skips the A section and dives in to B1, etc.

More recently, the advent of personal computers has created "Chessbase™ journalism." All a trendy modern author has to do is buy *Informators 40–53* on disc, select all the games in the variation of interest, export them into a text file, add a few "instructive comments" and move on to the next chapter. With practice, the author can start "writing" his "book" at 1p.m. (just after breakfast) and have it in the post to his unsuspecting publisher before the evening edition of *Neighbours*.

An example of the older method is *The Alekhine for the Tournament Player*, by Lev Alburt and Eric Schiller (recently reprinted by Batsford's). The book is easy to use, but sells the reader short: of 130 pages of chess, 22 are lightly-annotated "Illustrative Games"; most of the notes are verbal descriptions of the position, padded out with 156 diagrams (that's about 20 pages' worth!) and some largely superficial analysis. Most of the games cited are from the 1970's and, with only the odd 1984 reference, the book is now rather out of date.

Opting for a more theoretical approach, Graham Burgess has meticulously compiled a well-written and occasionally humorous text. The bulk of his material is from the late 1980's, with several games from 1990 and 1991. The material is arranged in "complete games", but the author has taken the trouble to sort through the material on his extensive database. Chapter 11, for example, is based around 12 core games, with a further 160+ games or fragments incorporated into the notes. The author follows each game to its natural conclusion, but as the notes get lighter and lighter towards the finish, any accusations of "padding out" would be unfair: if anything, the book has been edited down to size. For example, although *The Complete Alekhine* is about twice as long as Alburt & Schiller, it actually has fewer diagrams!

All this detail could creat an impenetrable mess, but the typesetter's intelligent use of bold font makes it clear at a glance which subvariation is being examined. Indeed, I found to my surprise that it was very easy to find a particular line just by skimming through the pages, without even having to resort to the comprehensive Index Of Variations.

But what of the content? The book is clearly well-researched and up to date, but why should the reader give up his pet Sicilian Dragon to become an Alekhine's addict? According to the author, who has been defending with the Alekhine's for some years now, its "bad reputation persists, but this is in spite of its rather healthy theoretical status and respectable record in practice. In most lines, Black has a choice of a number of reasonably sound options in addition to a variety of attempts to create chaos."

A major problem for players of my level is that, because few people play the Alekhine's, most Whites aren't considerate enough to chug down twenty moves of theory to obtain a poor position and instead deviate anywhere from move 2 onwards. One of the strong points of *The Complete Alekhine* is its completeness: as a reference book, listing all the important developments since Steiner–Alekhine (Budapest 1921) put the opening on the map, it is essential reading for anyone bold enough to be(come) an afficianado.

My main grumble about the book is that there is little in the way of moral guidance. Sure, there is an introductory quarter-page at the start of every chapter to explain the broad thinking behind each major variation, and it *is* difficult for an author to outline strategic themes in an opening of such diversity. But, as a reasonably serious player with only limited time for study, I would just like to know which games in each chapter are most worthy of attention.

Having too much study material is preferable to the alternative, though; I just wish all openings books were as good as this one!

Yes, I Am Erling Mortensen

by Graham K. Burgess

□ **Uffe V. Nielsen** (2375, Erritsø)
■ **Graham K. Burgess** (2329, Sydøstfyn)
9. div holdturnering 1.bræt 23.2.92
Aljechins forsvar

1 e4 ♘f6 2 e5 ♘d5 3 d4 d6 4 ♘f3 ♗g4 5 ♗e2 c6

This was a home match, so it was played in Gudbjerg.

6 c4

Of course, everyone will remember Uffe V. Nielsen from Viscoelasticity in the White (November 1990) Dragon. (Incidently, Rajko's version of my game against Kovalev on the same double page varied somewhat from reality.) The game U.V.N.–Crocker, Gausdal, 1990, continued 6 Ng5 Bf5 7 Bd3 Bxd3 8 Qxd3 h6?! 9 Ne4! whereupon Black failed to equalize, but succeeded in getting his king severely shagged somewhere around a8. Unfortunately, Natasha edited out an assonant pre-name that Phil wittily thought up for his opponent.

Anyway, not wishing to take on the now legendary 8...e6!!! and Rajko's toilet analysis, Uffe chose a line known by all Informator hacks to promise White an edge.

6...♘b6 7 ed ed 8 O–O ♗e7 9 ♘bd2 O–O 10 ♖e1

Yudasin. This was a position I discussed with James Howell on the train to Hastings (as reported, rather inaccurately, by Stefano, last Dragon). The line in the introduction with which he decided to take issue was, in fact, 'Currently, the Alekhine's bad reputation persists, but this is in spite of its rather healthy theoretical status and respectable record in practice.'

In response to his claim that Yudasin–Timoshenko is +=, I revealed 10...Bf6 TN but we'd only got as far as, '11 Ne4? Bxf3, ...oh yes, that's awful for White' when we were interrupted by a pair of American teenage actresses. 'Pollyanna, who appears in the 'Milky Bar' advert, is actually fourteen, so probably knows all about Bohemian Rhapsody.

10...♗f6!TN 11 a4

To my relief, played after a fair amount of thought; as I had suspected Pollyanna may actually have been spying for Erritsø. Anyway, I now had to choose between two moves suggested in my book. 11...d5 was given an 'interesting' sign, so I suppose I selected the boring one.

11...a5 12 ♖a3 d5

Three-dimensional hypercuboid, generally made of cardboard — else 13 Ne4.

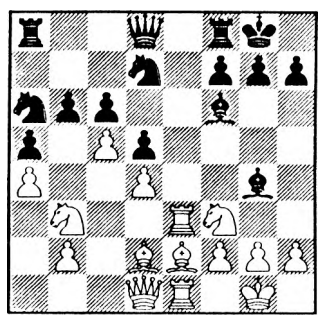
13 c5 ♘6d7 14 ♖e3

In the post mortem, we looked at 14 Qc2 Na6 15 Ng5 and gave it an infinity sign, but couldn't decide on countability.

14...♘a6

I'm not sure what Mark Thornton would say, but Neddy's quite happy here.

15 ♘b3 b6 16 ♗d2



Compare with diagram 119 of you-know-what. Why did Timoshenko spend ages putting his pieces on such crap squares?

16...bc 17 ♗×a5 ♕b8

More active than 17...Qc8, though this has the merit of avoiding White's next move.

18 ♘e5! ♘×e5

Naturally 18...cd 19 Nxc6 dxe3 20 Nxb8 ef+ 21 Kxf2 Bxe2 crossed my mind, but I just wasn't man enough to try it.

19 d×e5 ♗×e2 20 ♖1×e2?

An innocent-looking move, but since the rook on the third rank just becomes exposed without threatening the Black king, 20 R3xe2 should be preferred (as pointed out by Ulrik Rath, ex-champion of Denmark and Sydøstfyn board 2). Then Black must still play for equality, eg. 20...Bd8. 'Lesser players' may wish to work out what is wrong with 20 Qxe2.

20...♗g5! 21 ♖f3

The brutal stuff fails: 21 Rg3 Bf1 22 Rg1 Bxe5 23 Rxe5 Qxe5 24 Bc3 d4 25 Nxd4 cxd4 26 Bxd4 Rad8.

21...♖e8

It's a 'Kryds med ting' situation concerning the e5 pawn.

22 ♖f5

The 'active move' prize is not won by 22 Qe1, which could be met by 22...Ra7.

22...h6 23 ♕c2

A better try is 23 Bc3, though 23...g6!? 24 Rf3 d4 is fairly unpleasant for White.

23...g6 24 ♖×g5

Desperation; 24 Rf3 Rxe5 25 Rxe5 Qxe5 26 Nxc5 Nxc5 27 Qxc5 Qxb2 is just Ulybin.

24...h×g5 25 e6 ♕d6!

"Like in the Caro-Kann" — reader's voice.

26 ef+ ♔×f7 27 g3 ♘b4 28 ♕d2 ♖×e2 29 ♕×e2 c4 30 ♕d2 c×b3 31 ♗×b4 c5 32 ♗c3

Rather cute is 32 Ba3 Rxa4 33 Qxg5 Rxa3 34 bxa3 b2, when Black wins, 'despite being level on points.'

32...d4 33 ♕d3 ♖×a4 34 ♕f3+ ♔g8 35 ♗d2 c4 36 ♗×g5 ♖a1+ 37 ♔g2 ♖a5 38 ♗d2 ♖f5

Amusingly enough, 38...Qd5 39 Bxa5 Qxf3+ 40 Kxf3 c3 also wins. One can hardly ask for more than a position in which even blunders win.

39 ♕a8+ ♕f8 0–1

Having written these notes, the most useful piece of advice I can give is: 'If you're ever on the ferry '*Prince Joachim*' don't buy a souvenir pen, 'cos they're crap!'

How I Helped the Conservatives Win the General Election

by Ilan Rubin

I've been under pressure from Andy and Dave to write an article for quite a while now, and I suppose it's time I skipped the odd essay to do one. The first article I suggested was titled 'Pete Wells is Crap' — indeed this was the entire article. *(Last term's pint-a-point was won by Pete with 5/6. His last round defeat by Ilan (3/6) disturbed us all -Ed.)* David was worried that it might be defamatory, Andrew suggested compromising with 'Pete Wells isn't what he used to be,' or 'Pete Wells isn't very good,' but all in all I thought it best in the end just to ignore Pete and to look to one of my other games for inspiration. *(The editors suggested making up a game Rubin-Wells on the grounds that Pete wasn't going to object since it couldn't be as embarassing as the real thing. -Ed.)*

Choosing which game was not so difficult a task ... the games played on the lower boards of the college league first division deserve their reputation for being 'not what they used to be.' Of my seven graded wins this year, three of my opponents blundered their queens and two dropped a piece. The game I finally picked is, I say with confidence, more interesting for its psychology than for its actual moves...

(Ilan claimed to have been White in this game, but having looked at it, we took the liberty of giving him the Black pieces. -Ed.)

□ **P. Armitage**(Ungraded, but a contemporary of mine in the Kent U11 team when, as I recall, a nine year-old named Sadler, who had taken up the game just six months earlier, was playing board five.)

■ **I. Rubin**(152)

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6

This is where the bluff begins; apart from five minute games, I haven't played 1...c5 since 1989 and haven't studied the Sicilian since I was fourteen. I tried to transmit this fact to my opponent by electronic thought waves, hoping that he would bravely take on my ignorance and end up in a Dragon Yugoslav (which sounded like fun even though I didn't have a whiff of an idea of the latest theory)

3 ♘c3

But either he was programmed on a different frequency, or else he didn't believe me.

3...♘f6 4 ♗c4

Such insistance on avoiding opening theory tends to lead to comfortable equality for Black, which, I thought, was known to everybody who's anybody.

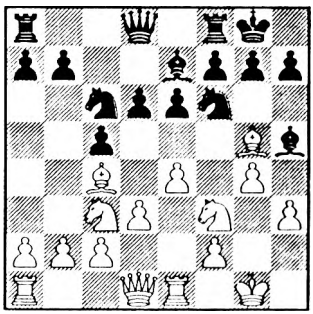
4...♗g4 5 d3 e6 6 ♗g5 ♗e7 7 O–O O–O 8 ♖e1 ♘c6

Black has a very satisfactory position indeed. White should play a4 soon or else ...a6 and ...b5 and Black is clearly better. Add the pin on the Nf3 which is also lush for Black and his control of the black central squares and Black is wetting himself. *(Easily excited isn't he? -Ed.)*

9 h3 ♗h5

(No Plan Two for Ilan -Ed.)

10 g4



10...♘×g4!?

If that isn't the original Double Whammy, then what is?

11 ♗×e7 ♕×e7 12 hg ♗×g4 13 ♘b1?

What a sad move! With this grovelling retreat the knight heads for d2 to protect the Nf3. Returning the material with 13 Re3 is not much better: Black can choose to win the exchange and rely on the passed h-pawn for a long-term advantage or maybe push for more with 13...f5. 14 e5 is met by 14...d5 and 15...f4. 14 Bxe6+ is met by Qxe6 and Black should go into the endgame a pawn ahead after the queens come off. *(White does have the interesting alternative here: 14 ef Bxf5□ 15 Nd5 Qd7 16 Nf4 d5 17 Bb5 a6 18 Ne5 where his extra piece looks rather active. Black should try 15...Nd4 where 14 Kg2 Nxf3 15 Rxf3 Qh4 (not 15...Qg5 16 Rg3 Bxd1 17 Rxg5 Bxc2 18 Rc1+-) 16 Qh1 Bxf3+ 17 Kxf3 Qxh1+ 18 Rxh1 where Black's rooks need to get active if he is to make progress. -Ed.)*

13...♗×f3 14 ♕×f3 ♘d4

The point! Now my queen comes to pay a visit.

15 ♕d1 ♕g5+ 16 ♔f1?

This is where the psychology fits into the scheme of things. White, ahead on material, stubbornly refuses to accept a draw by perpetual check. The move he chose definitely 'isn't what it used to be.'

16...♕h4 17 f3?

Missing his last chance with Kg2 etc. I now had an erection the size of ... well ... a small Outspan *(Easily excited isn't he? -Ed.#1)(Ilan's actual choice of simile was considered insulting by the other editor. -Ed.#2)*

17...♕h1+ 18 ♔f2 ♕h2+ 19 ♔f1 ♘×c2 20 ♘c3 ♘×e1 21 ♔×e1 ♕xb2 22 ♕c1 ♕g2 23 ♕d1 ♖fe8 24 ♖b1 d5 25 ♗b5 ♖e7 26 ♕e2 ♕×e2 27 ♔×e2 de 28 de a6

and White resigned ..., **0–1**

Past *([sic] presumably this a cryptic reference to the fact that most of White's pawns are history -Ed.)* pawns to the left of them, past pawns to the right of them, into the valley of past pawns rode the White pieces! So that's where Michael Heseltine got his election speech from!

Gard Your Pawns.

by D.Shaw

This is the best game I have played for about 3 years so it might be my only chance to get anything published in Dragon. If you want to see my all-time best game, then you'll have to track down John Naylor, and get me a copy of the score from my win against him, coz I've lost mine.

□ **D.Shaw**
■ **O.Gard**
King's Gambit
1 e4 e5 2 f4

Together with the psychological advantage of wearing a suit, this move virtually won the game.

2...ef 3 ♘f3 g5 4 ♗c4 ♗g7

If 4...g4 then 5 O-O! gxf3 6 Qxf3 Qf6 7 e5 Qxe5 8 Bxf7+ is the double Muzio. If you don't know it you're dead.*(As either player. -Ed.)*

5 O-O d6

BCO2 says 5...h6.

6 d4 h5 7 c3

7 Nxg5 Qxg5 8 Bxf4 doesn't necessarily get anywhere although f7 doesn't look healthy.

7...h4

This looks a bit naff, but 7...g4 allows 8 Bxf4 gxf3 9 Qxf3 which is unclear.

8 h3 ♗d7?

8...Qe7 looks better because of ...

9 ♕b3 ♘h6

This knight now has nowhere to go.

10 ♕×b7 ♘c6

10 Nxg5 Qxg5 11 Bxf4 Δ a good hack looks quite promising but I didn't have the nerve to play it.

11 ♗d5 ♖b8 12 ♕a6 ♘e7 13 ♗c4 ♘g6

All this makes 10 Qxb7 and 11 Bd5 look pointless. 11 Qa6 saves time, but the queen is still isolated. 11 Qb3 Δ Qc2 is probably best.

14 ♘h2 ♖b6

14 Qxa7 is too greedy. If I'm going to win I need the queen to be on a half-decent square at least.

15 ♕a5 ♕c8

Ambitions à la Kasparov, but not as carefully worked out. The g5 pawn should be held on to for now. 15...f6 is good preparation because the bishop isn't going anywhere anyway, and there's hardly any point to castling now.

16 ♕×g5 ♗×h3 17 ♗×f4 ♖×b2 18 g×h3 ♕×h3 19 ♖f3

I thought that this last move would get me out of trouble, but I hadn't seen ...

19... ♘×f4

Δ 20 Rxh3 Nxh3+ and Nxg5. Having not considered this at all, I was very lucky to have

20 ♗b5+

which forces

20...♖×b5 21 ♕×b5+ ♕d7 22 ♕×d7+ ♔×d7 23 ♖×f4 ♖g8

A sneaky cheapo attempt.

24 ♔f2 h3

Failing to notice the knight in the way, I thought, but ...

25 ♘d2 ♗×d4+

and the cheapo comes anyway.

26 c×d4 ♖g2+ 27 ♔e3 ♖×h2 28 ♘f3 ♖g2 29 ♖h1

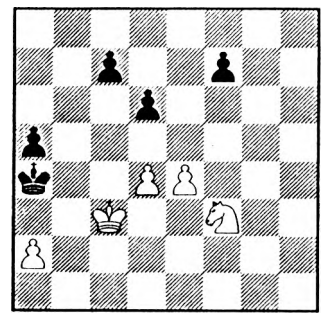
29 Rh4 Ng4+ leads to much the same thing.

29...♘g4+ 30 ♖×g4 ♖×g4 31 ♖×h3 ♖g2 32 ♖h2

Black's best chance is to keep his rook, so I encourage him to swap it off.

32...♖×h2 33 ♘×h2 ♔c6 34 ♔d3 ♔b5 35 ♔c3 a5 36 ♘f3 ♔a4

Having reached the time-control with 30 seconds left as usual, I now have time to think about the position.



I don't know how I win any games at all, having only a basic positional understanding, and not being able to think more than two moves ahead in the middlegame. When it comes to the endgame though at least I can have a go at some concrete analysis; being a knight up helps as well.

37 Kb2 Kb4 38 Ng5 Kc4 39 d5 Kd4 40 Kb3 f6 41 Ne6 Kxe4 42 Nxc7 Kd4 is far too risky.

37 Ng5 f6 38 Ne6 c6 39 Kc4 Ka3 40 Nd8 c5 41 dc dc 42 Kxc5 Kxa2 43 Kb5 Kb3 44 Kxa5 Kc4 draws.

37 Ng5 f6 38 Nh7 Ka3 39 Nxf6 Kxa2 40 e5 c5 41 ed cd+ 42 Kxd4 Kb3 43 d7 a4 44 d8=Q a3 45 Qb6+ Kc2 46 Kc4 wins but to play this over the board you have to be sure where Black's a-pawn is when you queen.

After 13 minutes not thinking about the lines above, though, I played.

37 e5 ♔a3 38 ♘g5 ♔×a2 39 ♘×f7 a4 40 ♔c2 c5 41 ♘×d6 cd 42 ♘c4

and White wins, promoting to a rook to avoid accidental stalemate.

42...d3+ 43 ♔×d3 ♔b3 44 e6 a3 45 ♘×a3 ♔×a3 46 e7 ♔a2 47 e8=♖ ♔a1 48 ♔c2 ♔a2 49 ♖a8 # 1-0

Answers to Last Time's Odds'n'Sods

by Steve Rix

(1) **1...c4! 2 dc** (2 Kf3 c5 3 Ke3 Kd7 4 d4 cd+ 5 cd c3 is not a good winning try) **2...c5! 3 ♔g4 ♔c7 4 ♔f5 ♔b6 5 ♔×e5 ♔a5 6 ♔d5 ♔a4 7 ♔×c5 a5**, and Black is left in stalemate whatever White does. I like the way that White has eight moves in which to prevent Black from executing his plan, but is unable to do so.

(2) **1 ♔h2!** (intending 1...Bc8 2 g4 Bxd7 3 gh gh 4 Rd1 mating) **1...♖c8 2 ♔g3! ♖ce8 3 ♔f4 ♗c8 4 ♔g5 ♗×d7 5 ♔h6 1–0**. The remorseless king march is similar to that in the first puzzle.

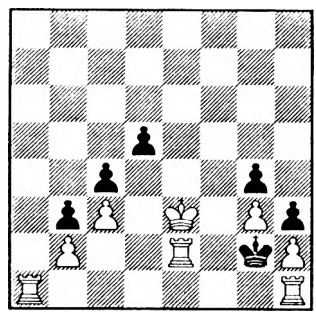
(3) **1 ♘g1** (△ Nxe2=, Nf3+) **1...♘e3+** (1...Nf4+ 2 Kh1 e1=N 3 Nf3+=) **2 ♔h3 ♘f4+ 3 ♔h2 ♘g4+** (3...e1=N 4 Nf3+ Nxf3+ 5 Kg2 wins back a knight) **4 ♔h1 ♘f2+** (4...e1=Q and 4...e1=N 5 Nf3+ Nxf3 are both stalemates) **5 ♔h2 e1=♘ 6 ♘f3+ ♘×f3 7 ♔g3 ♔e3**. Other moves lose a piece, but this one gives stalemate.
A real "cross f3" position.

(4) **1 ♗b1** (preventing ...Qg1 after the unavoidable ...a1=Q+) **1...a1=♕+ 2 ♔b5 ♗g3 3 g7 ♗b8** (2...Qa3 is met by 3 g7, and the Black queen can't do anything useful. Black now hopes for 4 g8=Q? Qa5+! forcing stalemate) **4 g8=♗! ♗f4** (else Bd5#, but now ...) **5 ♗ga2!!** and White wins easily with his passed pawns, e.g. 5...Bxd2 6 f6 Bf4 7 f7 Bd6 8 Kc6 Bf8 9 Kc7 and Bd5#.

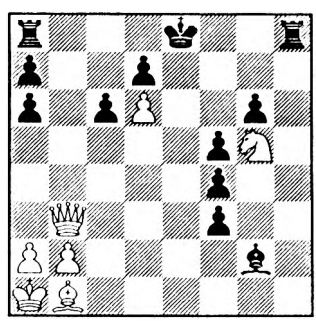
(5) Somewhere, sometime, somehow, the following events unfolded: White thinks "If I play g2-g4, his king is in check and can't move. Yes, that looks strong, I'll play it." Black thinks: "Bother! Checkmate.", writes 1–0 on his scoresheet and signs it. Meanwhile White notices with horror that Black has a strong reply in ... f4×g3#, and signs his resignation too! The arbiter is called (mutual surrenders do not occur that often) and rules the game a win for White, on the grounds that the slow motion action replay indicated that Black resigned slightly before White did — "this immediately ends the game."

(6) The laws of under-promotion have changed slightly since the late 19th century, when it was possible to obtain any piece other than a king in exchange for a promoting pawn. Nowadays, you can only take a piece of the same colour as the promoting pawn, and so 1 b8=♘#, i.e. taking a *black* knight, is illegal.

(7) **1 e7**. Now 1...Kd3 2 e8=Q mates via Qe2 or 0-0-0, but **1...♔×f3** 2 e8=Q? Kg2 leaves White with no mate. So **2 e8=♖!** (△ 0-0#) and if **2...♔g2 3 0–0–0–0#**. Yes, I mean that: White picks up his king, moves it two squares towards the rook on e8, and deposits his rook onto the square the king passed over, namely e2!



Sadly, recent versions of the rules define castling in terms of moving a king "toward either rook on the same rank," so regrettably this is also no longer a valid solution.



This study (Petrović, 1959) shows a beneficial rule change. White mates in 8 by **1 ♕b7! ♖d8 2 ♕b3 ♖a8 3 ♗d3 ♖h1+ 4 ♗b1 ♖h8 5 ♕c3** (now Black cannot castle) **5...♖h7 6 ♕f6 ♖g7 7 ♕×g7** and mates next move. When this was composed, Black was entitled to claim a draw by repetition at move 4; now it is recognised that the positions are different, Black having lost the right to castle.

Croucho Marks Your Card

by Colin Crouch

So Dragon returns, and with diagrams as well! And they want a contribution from some chess hack beyond the grave. As we all know, chess hacks have to write quickly...

One possibility:

"As a service to the readers of Dragon, I commend to you the following souvenir supplement consisting of all the game–scores of the historic Short–Karpov match. Can I have my cheque now, please?"

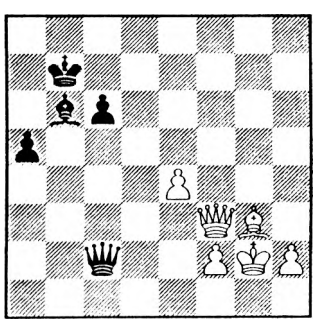
This would of course follow in the grandest traditions of British chess journalism, but I decided against it. Besides, having slogged my guts out trying to produce a set of notes to these games, I would want to repeat my notes as well as the game.

Then in more Dragon–like tradition, I could repeat a few pieces of gossip and slander, maybe even recycling a few from late seventies' Cambridge. And if John Wilson can sing the praises of 'little Ketevan' – well perhaps I should sing the praises of 'big Ketevan' rather than make oblique references to Transcaucasian temperament, and women hating to lose to men.

A few Russian jokes? Maybe, but later. And a report on how Barbican beat Oxford University 5–1? *(Good to know someone can do it...-Ed.)*

Faced with pressing deadlines (plus my own laziness) I decided to write up the first interesting game I played at Whitby recently. I hope it is entertaining; Alfie and Charlie, plus Ernie, Freddie and Horace all get promoted. Brian, sadly, had disappeared before all the fun started.

□ **C.Crouch**
■ **C.Holland**



Five passed pawns! How is such a position reached? Through incompetence! I was easily winning, he was down to a minute for his last 16 moves before the time control, and I had safely snaffled a couple of pawns. But then I let Arthur out of the catflap and the Black queen pounced.

Alfie marched on:

41...a4

Panic! This pawn will run and run.

42 h4

Ernie doesn't have the staying power so hungry Horace munches on.

42...♗d4?

This move was already enough to get him close to time trouble! It is difficult to decide how Black should play this position. The possibilites seem to be:

(A) 42...Qb2 (△ Alfie takes the gold medal) 43 Qf7+ Ka6 44 Qc4+ and now:

(i) 44...Qb5 45 Qxb5+ cxb5 46 h5 Bd4 47 e5 should win for White (if indeed there isn't something clearer with 46 Be5!?)

(ii) 44...Ka5! still leaves everything thoroughly unclear; if 45 Kh3 *(hoping for 45...a3 46 f3 Bf2 47 Bc7+ Bb6 48 Qc5+ Ka6 49 Bxb6 a2 50 Qxc6 a1=Q 51 Bd4+ Ka5 52 Qa8+)* then simply 45...Bxf2! 46 Bc7+ Bb6 47 Qc5+ Ka6 with a likely draw.

White also has the cold-blooded 45 Qxc6 though, and after 45...a3 46 Qd5+

(A)(ii)(1) 46...Qb5 47 Qxb5+ Kxb5 48 Be5 Kc4 49 h5 Bd4 50 Bxd4 Kxd4 51 h6 a2 52 h7 a1=Q 53 h8=Q+ with a kebab.

(A)(ii)(2) 46...Ka4 47 Qc4+ Ka5 *(47...Qb4 loses to the queen swap.)* 48 Kh3!? a2 49 Qd5+ and all this analysis is confusing me, though no doubt I'll get something sorted out for *Informator*.

I think it should be good for White; for example:

(A)(ii)(2)(a) 49...Ka4 50 Be5 a1=Q 51 Qa8+ Ba5 52 Qc6+ Ka3 53 Qc5+ Ka4 54 Qc4+ Ka3 55 Bxb2+.Shall we call this += ?

(A)(ii)(2)(b) 49...Ka4 50 Be5 Qxf2 51 Qc4+ Ka3 52 Qd3+ and Black is out of checks and no longer threatening to queen, so White can try to win with 53 h5.

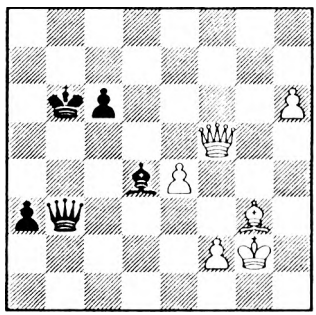
(A)(ii)(2)(c) 49...Ka6 50 Be5 may well be another +=.

(B) Hübner would enjoy all this! 42...Bc5 43 h5 a3 44 h6 a2 45 Bc5 Bxf2 46 Kh3!, as I saw during the game, is strong. But maybe

45...Qb1! is OK for Black, for example 46 h7 *(46 Qf7+ Kb6 is unclear)* 46...a1=Q 47 Bxa1 Qxa1 48 Qf7+ Kb6 49 Qb3+ with a draw.

So really, there is nothing particularly clear for either player in the position, even after analysis, and there are a lot of tactics. All you can do is play it move by move, and hope for the best.

43 h5 ♕b3 44 ♕f5 ♔b6 45 h6 a3



46 h7?

An obvious move, but also a nervous one. Black's 42nd move was in fact a mistake which left his pieces uncoordinated. After Black's 45...a3 the queen is unprotected, and so is the bishop on d4. 48 Qf8! would have won.

I was terrified of Alfie, and too eager to give Horace a more comely form, to search for anything but the obvious 'good' move! It is easy to let your judgement go astray in a tense position.

46...a2 47 ♗e5!

I had prepared the brilliant 47 Qe5!! Bxe5 48 Bxe5 Qc4 49 h8=Q Qxe4+ 50 Kh2 with a technical win, but then saw (only just in time) 47 Qe5?? Qxg3+!! ∓

47...a1=♕ 48 h8=♕ ♗×e5 49 ♕f×e5 ♕g8+ 50 ♕×g8 ♕×e5 51 ♕c4 ♕f4

I am still a pawn up, but his queen is too well placed for me to feel confident of winning, especially given the dangers of a perpetual. Still, he only had three minutes to reach move 60.

52 ♕b3+ ♔a5 53 ♕c3+ ♔b5 54 e5

Wisely stepping forward, Black gains nothing with 54...Qg4+ 55 Qg3 Qe4+ 56 f3 etc.

54...c5 55 ♕b3+ ♔c6

And then an involuntary look of horror from him. Alas for me 56 Qf3+ is only a draw: 56...Qxf3+ 57 Kxf3 Kd5 58 Ke3 Kxe5 59 Kd3 Kf4 etc.

56 ♕e6+ ♔b5 57 ♕d7+ ♔b4 58 ♕d5!

Centralisation! I do not know whether Black could have defended better earlier – it would take quite detailed analysis to find out – but suddenly I have real winning chances. Black's checks have been neutralised since the White king can escape to the centre (58...Qg4+?! 59 Kf1 Qh3+?! 60 Kc2) and the e-pawn is getting dangerous.

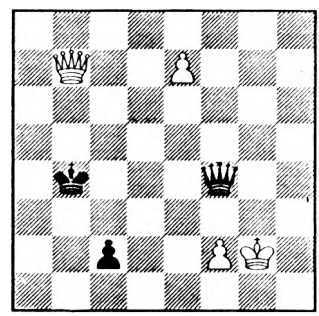
58...c4 59 e6 c3

Readers of Dragon in the mid-to-late-1970's, will recall that the move c3 is always the sign of a lost position, especially if played on move 2 after 1 e4 c5.

60 e7 c2

60...Qg4+ 61 Kf1 c2 62 Qd2+ Kb3 63 e8=Q Qd1+ 64 Qee1 is no help.

61 ♕b7+



Adjourned. My opponent sealed after prolonged thought, and then declared that he was totally convinced he had a draw. I was equally sure that I had a win! Two points: Q+BP v. Q is generally not too difficult to win, and if White can get a check on the c-file he can queen his pawn without allowing a perpetual. Thus 61...Ka3 62 Qf3+ and 61...Kc5 62 Qc8+ Kb4 63 e8=Q both win for White. The text offers a bit more immediate resistance, although 61...Ka3 would have kept White working the longest.

61...♔a5 62 ♕a7+ ♔b4 63 ♕b6+ ♔a3 64 ♕c5+

This is what my opponent had overlooked when sealing.

64...♔b2 65 e8=♕ ♕g4+ 66 ♔f1 ♕h3+ 67 ♔e2 ♕g4+ 68 ♔e3 c1=♕+ 69 ♕×c1+ ♔×c1 70 ♕c6+ ♔b2 71 ♕b5+ ♔c1

71...Ka3 72 Qd3+!

72 ♕f1+ ♔c2 73 ♕e2+ ♕×e2 74 ♔×e2 ♔c3 75 ♔e3 ♔c4 76 ♔e4 ♔c5 77 ♔e5 ♔c6 78 ♔e6 ♔c7 79 ♔e7

...and my opponent let Freddie become the seventh queen, putting on his robes for the National Anthem.

Rancid Hell Spawn

by John Wilson

The debate as to which CUCC member has perpetrated the most disgraceful swindle is one which has not been very topical in recent *Dragons*. Here's my contribution regardless.

□ **J.Wilson** **cr 1991-92**
■ **D.Overton (2316 postal)**
English Symmetrical

1 c4

I played this a couple of times when I was 12. My excuse for engaging in the basically pretty sad pastime of postal chess is that I get to try out different openings without having to go to the trouble of learning any theory. Incidentally, do you get bonus points for swindling someone in a postal game?

1...c5 2 ♘c3 ♘c6 3 g3 g6 4 ♗g2 ♗g7 5 ♘f3 ♘h6

Why can't these people play a proper opening, for goodness' sake? I now hurried off to consult John Watson's comprehensive book on the opening, and found:

6 h4! 0–0 TN

Wot? Watson gives 6...Nf5 7 h5 e6 8 d3 d5 9 g4 Nfd4 10 Nd2! Δ 11 e3 and 6...d6 7 d3 Rb8 8 h5 Bd7? 9 Bxh6! Bxh6 10 hg hg 11 Qe1! Bg7 12 Rxh8+ Bxh8 13 Qh6 Bxc3+ *(13...Bf6 14 Ng5 ±)* 14 bxc3 e6 15 Ng5 Ke7 += Botvinnik—Gligorić, Moscow Ol 1956, although 15 Kd2! Δ 15 Qe7 16 Ng5 ± was best, according to Flohr.

It looks unbelievably cheeky to castle into it like this, but it provokes me to over-react. I must also admit to not having a clue what I should I have done instead.

7 h5 ♘g4 8 d3 d6 9 hg?

This is the start of a grotesquely bad plan.

9...fg 10 ♗f4 h6 11 ♕d2 g5 12 ♗×g5

I don't know what mark to give this move; its major drawback is that it loses a piece, but 12 Be3 doesn't seem to hold out much hope of active play. The analysis that caused my choice, though, was of at least '??' standard.

12...hg 13 ♘×g5 ♘d4!

He's more than welcome to take on f2, but I was expecting 13...e6, when 14 Rh4 gives a pretty juicy attack. I'd completely missed this, and spent some time under the misapprehension that 14 f4 was reasonable, until I saw 14...Ne3! — grown men have cried in better positions . 14 Nce4 was distinctly lacking in swindle potential, so I said my prayers, and played:

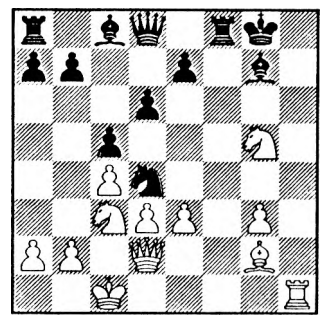
14 O–O–O!?

...and they were answered!

14...♘×f2??

After 14...Rxf2, the worst thing that can happen to Black is that his rook gets trapped and has to be returned for a piece, but in view of the fact that he has been given a head-start of a piece, this should not be too much of a problem. After 14...Nxf2, I actually get an attack.

15 e3 ♘×h1 16 ♖×h1



When I come to write *Johnny Teaches Chess*, this position will no doubt appear with the preceding moves replaced by the caption: 'White has sacrificed a rook for a strong attack on his opponent's king.' It sounds much better that way; in fact it's a shame the opening was so appalling, as what happpens next does strange things to my hormones.

16...♘e6

16...e6 17 exd4 cd 18 Nce4 gives excellent compensation for the exchange.

17 ♗d5 ♖f6 18 ♘ce4 ♕f8 19 ♕e2 ♖g6 20 ♖f1! ♕e8 21 ♕g4 ♗h6 22 ♕f5 ♔h8 23 ♗×e6 ♗×e6 24 ♘×e6 ♗×e3+ 25 ♔b1 ♖b8 26 g4! ♕g8 27 ♖h1+ ♖h6 28 ♖×h6+ ♗×h6 29 g5 b5 30 g6! [Δ Qh5] 30...♖f8 31 ♕h5 ♖f1+ 32 ♔c2 ♖c1+ 33 ♔b3 bc+ 34 ♔a4

Now the party's over for Black, and he has to give the rook back.

34...♖h1 35 ♕×h1 ♕×g6 36 ♘4g5! d5

If 36...cd 37 Qa8+ Qg8 38 Nf7+ Kh7 39 Qxg8+ Kxg8 40 Nxh6+ and the knight gets back in time to stop any unwanted proliferations.

37 ♕×d5 ♗×g5 38 ♕d8+ ♕g8

38...Kh7?? 39 Nf8+

39 ♕×g8+ ♔×g8 40 ♘×g5 cd 41 ♘e4 ♔f7 42 ♔b5 **1–0**